

Ministers act to aid jobless

A rearguard action by spending ministers in the Cabinet is believed to have limited the proposed cut in the real value of unemployment benefit. But some Conservative backbenchers remain unhappy about making further problems for jobless people. Details of increased spending will be announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, next week.

Ex-envoy's link with Czechs

Mr Edward Scott, a retired diplomat who has admitted he became involved with Soviet black agents because of an affair with a Czech housemaid, but was not prosecuted, claims he is the victim of a witch-hunt for spies.

Roy Jenkins is SDP favourite

A survey shows that Mr Roy Jenkins is a clear favourite to be the first party leader of the SDP. The survey, on behalf of the Sunday Times, showed 52 per cent of SDP members preferred Mr Jenkins for leader.

Chad willing to recall Libyans

President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad says he will not hesitate to ask Libyans to return to their troubled country if the Organisation of African Unity peacekeeping force fails to establish control. The OAU force is due in Chad within two weeks.

Lords to hear of asbestos risk

British delays in producing asbestos cement developed by Surrey University, are to be raised in the Lords. A Dutch firm begins production in the spring.

Muldoon tries to keep power

Mr Robert Muldoon, whose ruling National Party lost five seats to the New Zealand general election, with the opposition parties at 48 each, is determined to hold on to power. "We are ahead. We are the Government," he told his supporters.

US urged to sell ideas like soap

A confidential memorandum has advised President Reagan to turn the Voice of America broadcasts into an out-and-out propaganda campaign, using techniques perfected by advertising agencies to sell soap. "Selling involves more than reasoning," it involves emotions, the document said.

CBI predicts more gloom

Only a slight improvement in the economy next year is predicted by the Confederation of British Industry in its latest economic forecast. Output will rise by no more than 1 per cent, but the outlook for exports is more hopeful.

Pretoria denies Seychelles link

In the face of continuing allegations in Africa and the United Nations, South Africa has strongly denied any involvement in the abortive coup in the Seychelles. More than 300 British tourists have been stranded on the Indian Ocean islands.

England are 216 runs behind

India led England by 216 runs with one second-innings wicket in hand after the third day of the first Test match in Bombay. Kapil Dev, the Indian all-rounder, hit out spiritedly in the last 45 minutes to seize the initiative from England.

World Cup woe

Wales will not be joining England, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the World Cup Finals in Spain next year. Yesterday's 1-1 draw between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia in Bratislava put paid to their hopes.

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Letters: On the Scarman report, from Mr Jay Gougeon and others; Ireland, from Mr E. E. Williamson. Leading articles: Arms control talks; Ulster Unionists; Features, pages 8 and 10. Saving the next EEC summit, by Edward Heath; the SDP's middle class profile; if the royal baby is a girl; a profile of Sir Alec Guinness. Obituary, page 12.

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Muslim Brotherhood blamed

64 killed by car bomb in Damascus

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Nov 29

President Hafez al-Assad's Government in Syria tonight blamed the extremist Muslim Brotherhood for a car bomb explosion which killed at least 64 people and injured a further 135 in a densely populated middle class district of Damascus early in the day.

The bomb, by far the worst incident of violence yet perpetrated against the Assad regime, was apparently intended for a police station and was detonated close to a crowded school.

The official Sana news agency tonight also chose to link the explosion indirectly to the collapse of the Arab summit in Fez, claiming that the bomb was intended to damage Syria's "steadfastness" in the face of American pressure for a Middle East peace settlement. Syria's refusal to attend the Fez conference and discuss the Saudi peace plan, in which the Americans showed considerable interest, was the immediate cause of the summit's suspension.

Sana claimed that the "Ikhwan"—the Brotherhood—planted the bomb on behalf of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy, the fired phrase which the Syrians use for Israel and the United States. Whatever reasons the Assad Government may adduce for the carnage in their capital city today, the explosion was only the latest in a series of bomb attacks on Syrian government offices over the past four months.

A security policeman saw the driver of the car carrying the bomb leap from his vehicle in Azhakiya street at around lunchtime today and immediately opened fire at him. As the man lay dying in the roadway, the car disintegrated in a huge explosion that sent a cloud of dense black smoke so high over the city that it could be seen from three miles away.

It also demolished several buildings and firemen and police dug through piles of debris to pull the dead and injured from beneath the tons of concrete that had collapsed on top of them. The full force of the explosion devastated a school in which children were preparing for their lunch hour. As security men cordoned off the area—just north of the Damascus souk and the Omayyad mosque—helicopters swept to and fro as they loomed over the city. Six hours after the bomb went off, bodies were still being pulled from the rubble.

Such attacks are normally given little or no publicity in Syria but today's explosion was of such violence that the official media made no attempt to suppress the news. The Syrian Government recently stated that the Muslim Brotherhood had been crushed in Syria, a statement which makes today's official announcement of the bomb attack all the more significant.

Indeed, earlier this month, Mr Iskander Ahmed Iskander, the Syrian Information Minister, declared in an interview with *The Times* that the Brotherhood was "on the run". When I asked if this meant that there would be no more bombings in Damascus, he replied: "We cannot definitely stop such things. These are ruthless people we are dealing with; can you stop IRA bombs in London or in Northern Ireland?"

Much of the violence generated by the Brotherhood over the past year has been fed by the brutal behaviour of Colonel Rifaat's security men who are believed to be responsible for the killing, in some cases outright murder, of more than 300 civilians in the Syrian city of Hama.

The Brotherhood, however, has itself cared little about civilian casualties during its attacks. Early last month, it planted a bomb outside the Soviet Embassy compound in Damascus and detonated it at the very moment when dozens of Russian children were leaving their school. The real death toll was believed to be almost 10 times the official figure of three admitted by the authorities.

Sinal compromise, page 5

Reagan aide goes on leave to defend role in cash scandal

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 29

Mr Richard Allen, President Reagan's National Security Adviser, announced today that he was taking administrative leave of absence so that he can "speak out" about the controversy surrounding his acceptance of \$1,000 (about £520) from a Japanese magazine for helping to arrange an interview with Mrs Nancy Reagan.

The announcement was made on NBC television's *Meet the Press* programme. Mr Allen said he had no intention of resigning and that he expected to resume his duties once the Justice Department had completed its investigation into the matter.

Admiral James Nance, Mr Allen's deputy, will be Acting National Security Adviser during his absence.

Mr Allen, who referred to a press campaign of innuendo and sensationalism, said he had informed the President of his decision to take leave of absence, but declined to say whether the President supported his plans to return to his post.

His decision came after press reports that Mrs Reagan, Mr James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, and Mr Michael Deaver, the Deputy Chief of Staff, had called for Mr Allen to be removed because of the embarrassment he was causing the Administration.

Mr Allen said he had not heard directly from any of the three that they wanted him to go, but he had apologized to Mr Reagan for causing her embarrassment.

He repeated denials that he had done anything wrong by receiving \$1,000 but admitted an error of judgment in not handing it immediately to the counsel for the President and for not explaining what had happened.

He had taken an envelope containing the cash, along with other papers, which were "thrust at" Mrs Reagan after the interview. "But my intention was to hand that money over to the authorities," he said.

Police said friends of Miss Wood notified lifeguards of her disappearance at 5.15 am today after she had apparently wandered off from a party on the island four hours earlier.

Witnesses reported seeing a woman get into a 14-ft inflatable boat and head out to sea. The body of Miss Wood was spotted by a helicopter seven hours after she left her friends, floating in a lagoon about 200 yards out to sea.

The boat, named *Splendour*, was found by lifeguards drifting near by. —Reuters.

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4,000 marchers demand jobs not bombs

Young people marching through London yesterday to draw attention to the plight of the jobless.

Nearly 4,000, mostly unemployed, joined the protest march from Hyde Park to the Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank, where they rallied beneath three large balloons proclaiming: "Give us a future" (Frances Gibb writes).

Wearing badges such as "Jobs not bombs" and "Jobs not YOPS" (Youth Opportunity Schemes) the marchers were accompanied by pop groups,

The demonstration was the national climax to the TUC's Jobs Express campaign.

A train picked up unemployed young people on a 750-mile journey round Britain, ending in London on Friday with the arrival of 400 youngsters from Wales, Scotland, East Anglia and the North.

One of the protestors, Winnie Miller, aged 19, who is a student at Southwark College, said: "Basically I have come here today to represent the young people who want jobs and cannot get them."

Mr Len Murray, TUC

Picket line dilemma for BL strikers

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Longbridge strikers intending to defy their unions and report for work this morning were thrown into confusion last night by a shop stewards' refusal to say whether or not there would be official picket lines at the factory gates.

Mr Jack Adams, a works convenor said: "I am not going to disclose our plans. We are quite confident we can handle the situation. A decision on pickets will be taken tomorrow but I am not prepared to say when that will be."

Pickets have not been used so far in the three weeks old strike by 220 assembly track workers who are refusing to accept a 12-minute cut in their daily relaxation-time allowance. The works committee met on Friday to consider its response to a management decision to open the factory and test worker support for the strike.

The committee, which is comprised of senior shop stewards, decided not to introduce pickets. This was interpreted as a realistic decision because of the impossible task which would face pickets. They would have to separate strikers from the 6,200 workers laid off who are returning with the blessing of both the company and their unions. But it will be a much easier task for strike leaders to obtain the identity of strikers before they have reached their work stations. This could lead

later to the introduction of pickets, carefully chosen to identify men who normally work alongside them.

BL executives have failed to give an unequivocal answer to the question which is worrying many of the strikers: "What will the company do for us if we come to work in such small numbers that you then have to send us home? We could lose our union cards for strike-breaking and in a closed shop like Longbridge, that will mean no more work for us."

The answer given by Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of BL's light medium car operations, who said: "You will receive our full support and guarantee of continued employment. I am saying come back and vote with your feet."

BL's intervention to end a strike which has already cost 18,000 cars, worth £65m, is intended to persuade strikers to unionise, the strike no longer reflects the views of the majority of members involved. It is gambling that with only three working weeks remaining before Christmas, the welfare of strikers' families will be the deciding factor.

BL chiefs are also annoyed that unions have not thought fit to put the company's latest proposals for phasing in the reduced break times over four months, to a mass meeting.

Please to Esso drivers, page 2

Schmidt has no Geneva doubts

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov 29

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said today he had "no doubts whatsoever" about the Soviet intention to negotiate seriously at the Geneva "missile" talks beginning tomorrow.

Herr Schmidt and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, yesterday briefed Mr Paul Nitze, the chief American negotiator, on what they had learnt of the Soviet position during President Jimmy Carter's visit to Bonn.

Mr Nitze and Herr Genscher intended to negotiate the talks to tackle the negotiations "intensively, constructively and briskly, and to achieve results," Foreign Ministry officials said.

Mr Nitze and the West German leaders discussed the American negotiating position which had been worked out with its European allies in the Nato "special consultative group."

In an interview with the weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel*, Herr Genscher said Mr Nitze's visit to West Germany on his way to Geneva was fresh proof of the American Government's desire to remain in a "close consultation process" with Bonn.

Herr Genscher described tomorrow's opening of the talks as "a historic date" and said he was optimistic about the negotiations. He felt that the two years negotiating time available was enough to reach an agreement.

In a radio interview Herr Schmidt recalled that his own career and the future of the West German government were bound up with the progress of the Geneva talks. If one side or the other does not negotiate seriously, much is at stake for us too. And that is why we will insist that negotiations are conducted seriously.

He said it would be "a grave mistake" for the Soviet Union to imagine that the European peace movement would prevent the stationing of Nato missiles if an agreement were not reached.

Both sides under deadline pressure

He had made it clear to Mr Brezhnev early in the talks that "his government would have the missiles deployed if there were no progress by late 1983 and that the Soviet Government would do exactly the same."

Both sides are under the pressure of a deadline. The Soviet Union has said it will not be able to do more than "a ratio of two-to-one in Nato's favour."

The Chancellor said that while trying to end the American position to the Soviet Union, he had also made clear "how much we Germans have influenced the American views. The zero solution (the proposal to do away with all medium-range missiles) was not originally an American proposal. It was a German proposal."

"We will not negotiate ourselves but during the negotiations we will remain in contact with our Western allies but also with the Soviet Union."

Herr Schmidt said that as a result of his talks with Mr Brezhnev, he could "very well imagine that one could reach a consensus in the first phase (of negotiations) on a solution to the missile problem if, at the same time, there was an agreement in principle on the subsequent phase in which the remaining medium-range weapons would be brought into balance."

He was referring to his suggestion, apparently accepted in principle by Mr Brezhnev, that the negotiations be conducted in stages with the missiles—the Soviet SS20s and the Nato Pershing 2s and Cruise—first.

His remarks indicated that the Soviet Union would be prepared to do this so long as a basis was laid for subsequent negotiations on other medium-range weapons, including the American, British and French airborne and submarine-launched nuclear weapons.

Russians question the seriousness of US

On the eve of the talks, the Russians have publicly questioned American readiness to negotiate seriously, suggesting the Americans are setting a pretext to lead the talks into stalemate (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow).

The official news agency, Tass, today reassured Soviet opposition to President Reagan's proposals for a "zero" option, calling it a "fictional plan made purely for propaganda."

Tass said the Americans were seeking unilateral military advantage and were violating the principle of equality. While the Soviet side had a sincere desire to reduce nuclear armaments in Europe, "people in the Soviet Union are far from sure that the United States is America is striving to do the same."

The agency, citing American statements about the possibility of a limited nuclear war and the refusal to give a pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, said: "All this gives rise to a suspicion that the United States is willing to replace serious and honest talks with a propaganda show designed to distract attention from accelerated war preparations."

Despite today's denunciations of a "dramatic" Reagan proposal, which would lead to a "zero" solution, the Americans were trying to change the present one-to-one balance in medium-range nuclear weapons to a ratio of two-to-one in Nato's favour.

Pope John Paul, in a personal message to President Reagan and Mr Brezhnev before the Geneva talks, has called on the United States and the Soviet Union to exert common efforts of good will and "closely the danger of nuclear war (John Earle writes from Rome)."

The Vatican has not published the text of the Pope's message as it is a personal message. Vatican officials said that the Pope had summed up his contents in his words today and that it would be up to the recipients to publish the letter.

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Lords to debate delays over 'safe asbestos'

By David Nicholson-Lord

British delays in producing a supposedly safe and more versatile alternative to asbestos cement, developed by Surrey University and planned for commercial production early next year by foreign competitors, are to be raised tomorrow in the Lords.

An option on an exclusive licence to produce Netem, a building material which does not contain the white asbestos fibres increasingly linked by critics to asbestosis and fatal lung disease, has been granted to the British group Norcor, as well as Dutch and Italian competitors, since patents were taken out by the university in 1976.

But, while the Dutch firm DSM, which has the licence for most of western Europe, intends to go into production next March or April, the university has been disappointed at the lack of progress made by Norcor and its subsidiary, Dow-Mac Concrete. Dow-Mac has now told Surrey it does not want to take up the option.

The delays have angered asbestos safety campaigners who blame inertia by industry, coupled with the Government's failure to introduce legislation on the use of alternatives as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Asbestos, under Mr William Simpson, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, in October 1979.

Mrs Nancy Tait, secretary of the Society for Asbestos and Industrial Disease, yesterday described the lack of progress as disturbing. It is in line with a "general reluctance by industry in this country" to consider alternatives. The Government should finance the development of substitutes and enforce their use, she added.

According to Dow-Mac, which does not produce asbestos products, Netem provided severe technical problems. Mr Nigel Wiggins,

the firm's marketing director, said: "It is not the panacea it was thought to be when it was first brought to our attention".

The university said up to £12.5m had been spent on Netem by companies on the Continent, and DSM has received aid from the Dutch Government. But Mr Wiggins said that after three-and-a-half years of development by Dow-Mac, he remained dubious about the product's commercial prospects.

The controversy over white asbestos, traditionally considered to be relatively safe in contrast to the known dangers of blue asbestos, has grown up after recent developments in the use of electron microscopes to examine diseased tissue. These have disclosed the presence of the much smaller white fibres previously undetected by ordinary optical microscopes.

In the Lords tomorrow, the Earl of Gosford will initiate a debate on asbestos substitutes and on whether the Government is "satisfied with the methods of monitoring asbestos which are currently in general use", a reference to optical microscopes.

Use of electron microscopes, according to Mrs Tait, has in the last few months, led to local benefit appeals tribunals to alter decisions in two cases. What was previously said to be bronchitis and heart disease was re-diagnosed as asbestosis.

Asbestos cement is widely used in wall, roof and ceiling panels. Industry disputes that it is health hazard and points to recent planning inquiry decision in which risks were said to be "negligible" with proper precautions.

But the inquiry inspector also said that use of electron microscopes might call for changes in recommended handling methods.

Some police surgeons 'are not competent'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The "bumbling incompetence" of some police surgeons is criticized in their association's magazine. The controversy indicates there is a risk of miscarriage of justice in some of the cases in which they appear.

Police surgeons are responsible for gathering evidence in non-fatal criminal cases, but can be involved crucially in murder investigations if they are first on the scene.

The Police Surgeon Supplement has joined a campaign to raise standards of police surgeons' competence and qualifications.

The editor, Dr Myles Clarke, of Hutton, says: "The standard of police surgeons across the country appears to vary from the pinnacle of excellence to bumbling incompetence."

"Some of the candidates on presenting themselves for the diploma (in Medical Jurisprudence), fondly imagining themselves to be widely experienced in police work, have found glaring lacunae exposed in their knowledge."

"Fortunately for them, the exposure was made in the comparative privacy of the examination room rather than in court, with the attendant glare of publicity."

He was replying to the attack of two highly respected police surgeons on his contention that those with the diploma should be better paid than those without. Dr J. Henry, a London police surgeon, says: Dr Clarke's views are galling to those who have served for many years.

If a proposal for different fees because the association's official policy, "I would resign", Dr Henry said.

The association has about 550 members but does not know how many police surgeons are not members. Most are in full-time National Health Service general practice.

Ex-envoy says he was victim of witch-hunt

By Frances Gibb

A retired British diplomat who has admitted illicit links with Soviet block agents in the late fifties, the latest in a line of confessions by government officials, claimed yesterday that he was the victim of a witch-hunt for spies.

Mr Edward Scott, aged 63, who had dealings with Czech officials when he was number two at the British Embassy in Prague from 1956 to 1958, said that his name had now been brought into the open for one of two reasons.

"Either there has been a decision taken in the national interest to let a number of cats out of the bag or some person is driving a coach and six through the Official Secrets Act on purpose."

Mr Scott, who was not prosecuted after admitting his action to British intelligence officers in 1969, became involved with Soviet block agents when he had an affair with a Czech housemaid who was reporting to the Czech secret service.

His confession in *The Sunday Times* yesterday comes four weeks after Mr Leo Long, a former British intelligence officer, admitted to spying for the Russians. After that disclosure, the Prime Minister refused to say how many people had been offered immunity in the wake of investigations into the spy ring surrounding the now-disgraced Mr Anthony Blunt.

Mr Thatcher is to be questioned in Parliament over this latest disclosure and asked why Mr Scott should be enjoying an index-linked Civil Service pension.

Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, said yesterday that he would be raising the issue. "How many more cases are there still to be uncovered? Do we have to read the newspapers to find out how many worms are in the can?"

Yesterday at a press conference in the Hilton hotel, Mr Scott denied he had given any information of value to the Czechs; he rejected any accusations of being a spy or



Mr. Edward Scott speaking at the Hilton hotel yesterday

secret contact with Czech officials. "But I hoped it would not be in the national interest to bring a prosecution against a fourth league sinner."

Far from giving secret information, Mr Scott said he had held back from saying anything of value. He said that although he was at Cambridge he had nothing to do with the circle of Marxists which flourished during the thirties and which provided the core of the spying network led by Philby and Maclean.

After postings in Tehran and Tangier, he went to Prague in 1958, at that time "a sensitive place", and started having an affair with his housemaid, Irena Peckova. He knew that like all employees, she had been placed in his home by the Czech authorities. "To that extent I knew she was planted; but I was very fond of her and she of me and I wanted to help her."

He said she was disillusioned with the political regime and he agreed to try to get her out of the country by "putting my own head on the block". His ploy, he said, was to pretend to Czech officials that he could be of use as a spy in the future.

When he was due to be posted back to London he arranged through her to meet a Czech official.

He said he had no difficulty in drawing a line between information that was useful and that which he did not wish to reveal.

The visa was arranged and Mr Scott continued to meet with Czech agents in London for a few months around 1958/59 to ensure that his housemaid was settled in Vienna, he said.

Since then, Mr Scott says he has had no further contact. The relationship with the girl fizzled out and he left the Foreign Office and went into the City.

Mr Nigel West, author of *MIS: British Security Services Operations 1909-1945*, said yesterday that it was he who had told *The Sunday Times* about Mr Scott, whom he had come across when researching his book.

A vital part of Mr Scott's story, Mr West said, was that during the war he was assistant military attaché in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in Kabul, "when he was known to have contact with the Soviets".

He passed his Foreign Office examinations in 1947 and then spent three years in the same office as Burgess before his first posting to Tehran.

Mr Scott is now living with his fourth wife. His second wife, Diana, was with him in Prague. She divorced him in 1965.

Thatcher firm facing threat in Wales

From Our Correspondent Llandudno

The militant Welsh Language Society has threatened "direct action" if building work is started by a company for which Mr Denis Thatcher acts as consultant on a development at Harlech in North Wales.

On Saturday, scores of demonstrators protested at Harlech against the proposal to build 65 homes and a motel there. Two wooden huts on the site, close to Harlech Castle, were badly damaged but no arrests were made.

Although Gwyneth County Council and local councils are opposed to the development, fearing it could lead to more holiday homes, it was sanctioned by Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales. It was to Mr Edwards that the Prime Minister's husband wrote his leaked letter complaining about a planning appeal delay involving the development company, HIC.

Plaid Cymru's two MPs, Mr Dafydd Ellis Thomas (Merioneth) and Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) attended the demonstration, but had left when the damage was caused.

Mr Wigley, who is president of Plaid Cymru, said: "It is insensitive of Mr Edwards to pretend that a letter from the Prime Minister's husband receives exactly the same attention as one from anybody else. Surely, it is like a company employee being asked for a lift by the managing director's wife, he cannot refuse whatever his feelings."

"There should not be one rule for ordinary people and another for others who can influence the processes of power. Mr Edwards should have been aware of the high feelings about holiday homes in this area."

River victim named
A body washed up on the banks of the Wyre at Knott End, Lancashire, has been identified as that of Mr John Stirling MacDonald, aged 42, of Harcourt Road, Blackpool.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Indemnity sought for rate rebels

A group of labour councils is seeking to commit a future Labour government to indemnifying local councillors surcharged for defying the Government on council spending.

The move comes in a joint statement sponsored by the councils which will be put to a meeting next Saturday with the Left-wing Labour Coordinating Committee.

It says that if Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, succeeds in introducing rates referendums, councils should hold their own referendums asking electors if they want services cut.

If Labour councillors refuse to make the cuts or bring in rate increases, the statement pledges full support for them and calls on a future Labour government to give them retrospective indemnity against charges.

Among the councils sponsoring the conference are the Greater London Council, Lothian, Dundee, Stirling, and Sheffield.

Offer to jailed teacher may go to Ombudsman

From Our Correspondent Welshpool

The Ombudsman for Wales may be asked to investigate Powys County Council's decision to reinstate Mr Wayne Williams, a teacher who is in prison.

He taught Welsh at Llandilo High School until he was jailed earlier this year for nine months for his part in the fourth television channel campaign.

More than 270 parents have signed a petition opposing his reinstatement and Mr Delwyn Williams, Conservative MP for Montgomery, said he might call in the Ombudsman to see if there have been a cover-up of administrative incompetence.

Yorkshire plea for Glasgow rail link

The Transport Users Consultative Committee for the Yorkshire area has asked British Rail to retain a direct link between West Yorkshire and the west of Scotland after diversion of express trains between Nottingham and Glasgow via Lancashire next May. Though the new system will mean some improvements for people in the Bradford area, passengers to Glasgow from Leeds and Sheffield will have to change at Carlisle.

Not like father

Miss Shara Knight, aged 18, the daughter of Mr John Knight, who has fathered 19 children, was married at Launceston, Cornwall on Saturday to Mr Jim Halls, a sheep shearer. The bride, who has a baby son, vowed to stop at six children.

Pact means return of 'News at Ten'

By Kenneth Coaling

Independent Television News returned to normal working on Saturday night and the first 'News at Ten' for more than a week will be broadcast tonight.

An agreement was reached on Saturday after more than 20 hours of talks spread over three days on the technicians' argument that a dispute over the salary and manning levels for operating new video tape machines should be referred to the industry's arbitration tribunal.

Management initially offered £500 to each technician working the new machinery and a review in 18 months. They later offered £5 a day for the same work, with arbitration in nine months. The union replied that it would agree to arbitration in three months.

The talks were held under the auspices of the conciliation, Advisory and Arbitration Service.

Mr Lawrie Read, ITN shop steward of the Association of Cinematograph Technicians and Allied Technicians, said yesterday: "We do not like to talk of victories but the craziness of the situation is that on Wednesday we agreed to the use of the arbitration procedure in three months."

Now they have conceded everything and the arbitration can start immediately.

"This means the whole thing could have been settled and ITN could have been back on Thursday morning, putting out its Crosby by-election special that evening and full news programmes for the rest of the week."

"They have tried to say that this has been about money but there is one word about it in Saturday's settlement. The most important thing to grasp is that basically this was never a dispute about money but about a principle. That quite literally is the paramount thing and why the entire ITN shop was so supportive."

The agreement worked out on Saturday will provide for a single editor to operate up to three video tape machines. Previously one editor had worked the machines with an editor under training.

ITN explained yesterday that the training was like putting a pilot of a Boeing 747 into training to fly Concorde. It meant experienced people learning to use advanced technology.

The tribunal, which will consider representations on remuneration and grading of editors' work on the new machines, consists of six representatives of each side of the industry. None is expected to have had any direct involvement in the dispute. The arbitration is likely to take about a fortnight.

Mr Read said: "I hope that this week-long strike will have been the means of averting a much longer one."

Mr Roy Herterich, aged 51, who helped the police to send a man to prison for 14 years after an armed robbery at his East London firm two years ago, was shot dead on his own doorstep on Saturday night.

He was killed by a single shot when he answered a knock on the door of his home in Bowhay, Hutton Mount, Brentwood, Essex.

His wife, Joyce, had heard him having a conversation at the door before the shot. She found him collapsed on the doorstep.

Det Supt Peter Blythe, deputy head of Essex CID, did not discount revenge as a motive for the murder.

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People convicted of minor offences have often been fined small amounts but made to pay prosecution costs out of all proportion according to a study of 641 crown court cases by Mr Howard Levenson, a solicitor and law lecturer.

He concludes that the effect of penalizing an innocent defendant, or a trivial offender, through "could well be to inhibit defendants from pleading not guilty, fighting their cases before a jury, and appealing if they are convicted."

The Cobden Trust, the research arm of the National Council for Civil Liberties, supports Mr Levenson's findings with examples from its files.

Recently a woman convicted of shoplifting goods worth £6.99 was fined £50, but ordered to pay £700 costs. And a youth convicted of avoiding a City Tube fare was fined £25, but ordered to pay £200 costs.

The Price of Justice, (Cobden Trust, 22.55).

'ACQUITTED' PEOPLE PENALIZED

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

Many defendants who are found not guilty are then penalized by the courts by being made to pay substantial contributions to their legal aid according to a survey published today. Other acquitted people have been refused costs from central funds.

People convicted of minor offences have often been fined small amounts but made to pay prosecution costs out of all proportion according to a study of 641 crown court cases by Mr Howard Levenson, a solicitor and law lecturer.

He concludes that the effect of penalizing an innocent defendant, or a trivial offender, through "could well be to inhibit defendants from pleading not guilty, fighting their cases before a jury, and appealing if they are convicted."

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The real failure behind effort to reshape Europe

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 29

The failure of last week's European summit in London to reach agreement on guidelines and timetables to reshape the EEC's finances and agricultural policy was not a failure, according to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister.

By that she meant that the Community still exists and that everyone understood each other better after two days of hard talking and negotiating. But it is precisely because the Community still exists in its present form that the summit was a failure.

Since Britain took over the presidency in midsummer, thousands of hours of meetings and drafting sessions have been spent in constructing the document which was largely thrown away on Friday evening.

Mrs Thatcher may have said that everyone now had a better understanding of each other, but it is difficult to see what aspect of the situation had not been thoroughly discussed before the summit began.

The problem is that although the heads of government got on very well together, when it came to putting their understanding into writing the drafting officials came up against the fact that conflicting viewpoints cannot be reconciled on paper.

Britain's urgency about obtaining a settlement was due largely to the fact that at the

end of the year it loses the Presidency. The chair will be handed over to Belgium and then to Denmark, neither of whom are pressing for change.

In addition, by March, when negotiations on agricultural price fixing are due, the Community will probably be locked into another year of high price policy.

Mrs Thatcher said on Friday that technical matters, such as aid for small farmers and price policies, should really be handled by specialist councils. That runs counter to all the philosophy which Britain expressed in the run up to the summit, when it urged operational guidelines and a timetable on this type of point.

A final hurdle for the big changes is due to be made at a special unofficial council of foreign ministers which is to be arranged. Failure could spell the end of the effort to restructure Europe's finances.

□ Athens: Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, expressed optimism tonight that the future of the EEC and Greece's relations with it would be clarified by the time of the next summit in the spring (Mario Modiano writes).

He said: "Greece cannot remain in the Community under the present status because this will ruin national economic interests. But I hope it will be possible to establish a special status."

Genscher concern for the cohesion of Community

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn, Nov 29

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who is a leading campaigner for greater European unity, expressed deep concern this weekend about the state of the European Community.

"Europe is going through a particularly difficult phase in which the Community's capacity to act and its internal cohesion are seriously endangered," he said.

Europe needed personalities who resisted national egotisms and fought with determination for Community interests, he said at a function yesterday organised by his Free Democratic party in honour of Mr Gaston Thorn, the president of the EEC Commission.

Herr Genscher, the prime mover of the West German-Italian proposal for a Euro-

pean Act of Unity, added in an interview today: "There is no doubt that European consciousness must become clearer and that its capacity to act must be recognisable if Europe negotiations on agricultural policy to defend its interests."

The failure of the European summit in London to reach a solution on the budget and agricultural problems showed "that all of us must become more aware that a new European effort is necessary."

Europe must not see itself as a community of states in which each one tries to pay as little as possible into the till and get as much as possible out of it. "That is a complete misunderstanding of the process of European unity," he asserted.

Heath view, page 10

Selling the Voice of America like soap

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 29

A secret memorandum which recommends that the Voice of America (VOA), the equivalent of the BBC's external services, should sell ideas the same way an advertising agency sells soap, has raised fears that the broadcasting network is to be turned into a propaganda arm of the Reagan Administration.

The memorandum, which recently found its way on to the pages of the Washington Post, was written by Mr Philip Nicolaidis, who has just been appointed VOA co-ordinator for commentary and news analysis.

Mr Nicolaidis, a former Texas radio commentator and writer for conservative publications, said it was necessary to recognise that the VOA was "a propaganda agency". Its job involved selling and "selling involves more than reasoning, it involves emotion; people buy the sizzle and not the steak" or the protection against "offending", not a bar of soap.

To deal with the Soviet Union's broadcast barrage it

was necessary, he said, to portray it as "the last great predatory empire on earth". He specifically advocated efforts to "de-stabilize" the Soviet Union and its satellites.

In a paragraph which appears to have caused particular offence to VOA journalists he said it was necessary to "reverse the tendency toward mush that flowered under the previous (Carter) Administration" and abandon the idea that VOA was a journalistic enterprise of some sort.

With the standards of Mr Ed Murrow (the celebrated broadcaster who headed the VOA's parent body, the United States International Communication Agency (USICA), during the Kennedy era).

The Nicolaidis memorandum caused a furor among VOA staff who appear in the Washington Post. At three of the editorial staff who were on duty at VOA headquarters that day signed a memorandum calling on Mr James Conkling, the recently appointed director, to disavow the views and to cancel his appointment.

At a meeting with staff Mr Conkling re-affirmed his support for a 1976 charter which requires the VOA to broadcast "accurate, objective and comprehensive" news. "We are not a propaganda agency", he told the meeting, but refused to reconsider Mr Nicolaidis's appointment.

The Nicolaidis memorandum is the latest in a number of incidents which have fuelled speculation within the organization and within the American media as a whole that the VOA was having to move away from its hard won fight to resist political pressures from any administration.

Like the BBC external services, the VOA disseminates news, music and comment in a host of languages: each week it broadcasts a total of 900 hours to an audience of 80 million in 39 languages. Unlike the BBC, however, it has always been more closely associated with the United States Government than its British counterpart is with Whitehall.

Over the years it has managed to establish a far greater

degree of independence than when it spearheaded President Truman's campaign for truth against communism at the height of the Cold War.

Although there is no longer an official censor sitting in the newsroom, the VOA's daily commentaries are intended to reflect government policy and members of the staff have to be cleared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During his election campaign President Reagan pledged to use the VOA as a "battering ram" in a re-invigorated American campaign to resist the propaganda successes of Soviet and other communist broadcasters around the world.

As part of this campaign he made Mr Charles Wick director of the USICA and Mr Conkling head of the VOA. Both men have similar show business backgrounds. Mr Wick, a member of the President's "California Mafia" made a fortune in real estate, nursing homes and entertainment. He wrote the script and produced a film called *Snow White and the Three Stooges*.

Mr Conkling, a former music arranger for dance orchestras, once produced a musical with a patriotic theme, called *Threads of Glory*.

One of the first actions by Mr Wick was to initiate Project Truth, a campaign to identify and discredit Soviet "disinformation" and to disseminate unfavourable facts about the Soviet Union. A memorandum explaining the campaign said the project would use all the resources available to the USICA.

Although senior officials have denied that VOA involvement in Project Truth would infringe its legislative charter for objectivity, it has nevertheless been regarded as a move to make its operation political.

Similarly, a proposal being considered by Mr Conkling to give the network's foreign language broadcaster more say in selecting and interpreting the news is regarded as an attempt to give broadcasts a more virulent anti-communist tone.

Arms negotiators face a long hard winter

From Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, Geneva, Nov 29

Both superpowers have promised a serious and realistic approach to their talks about curbing the number of nuclear weapons in Europe which opens tomorrow in this international capital of peace and goodwill.

But the carefully processed words so far deployed have been cautious as well as hopeful and the two delegations are clearly settling in for a long hard winter.

Technically, the negotiations will start at 11 am when Mr Paul Nitze, the silver-haired veteran of American arms control (for and against) arrives at the Soviet Mission for an informal session with the opposite number, Mr Yuriy Kislynsky.

The two men and their chief aides (the American team totals about 20) will decide the schedule for their formal meetings, which are likely to begin on Tuesday.

If the delegations accept the procedures of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Salt), they will meet about twice a week, alternating between the Soviet Mission and the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency offices in what is known as the Botanic Building—across the road from the botanic gardens in the tree-lined Avenue de la Paix.

The negotiations themselves have their origins in allied concern during the 1970s

about new Soviet weapons which were being developed for the European theatre. The most notorious was the SS20, which is not only more accurate and longer-ranged than the SS4 and SS5s it is replacing, but has three separate warheads and is mobile.

To counter weapons like this Nato agreed two years ago to station 572 new Pershing and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

The new missiles, however, were only one side of what were called a "twin-track" decision. The other offered the prospect of negotiating over such weapons.

So far both superpowers have made preparatory offers which they know the other side can, and probably will, refuse. President Reagan has made his famous "zero options" proposal under which the Americans would scrap the entire package of 572 missiles if the Russians would agree to dismantle their existing 630 SS2s, SS4s and SS5s.

The Russians have gone one better. On his arrival yesterday, Mr Kislynsky, who at 45 has already won a reputation as a brilliant negotiator, repeated an earlier suggestion by President Brezhnev that they should ban all medium/intermediate range nuclear weapons in Europe.

'World's oldest' shrine found

Washington, Nov 29

Scientists of the University of Chicago say they have unearthed mankind's oldest known religious shrine—a cave sanctuary containing an altar-like slab and an unusual sculpted stone head fashioned 14,000 years ago.

The well-preserved sanctuary, built in a cave by Stone Age men living in what is now northern Spain, also contained weapons, household tools and animal relics, they reported.

Dr Leslie Freeman and Dr Richard Klein, both anthropologists, discovered the shrine at the El Juyo cave archaeological site near the city of Santander. Dr Freeman said in a telephone interview that the find "is the oldest, intact, dedicated religious site we can prove in the world."

Evidence for religious belief goes back at least 50,000 years, he said. This includes cave drawings and gravesites offerings placed at Neanderthal burial sites. "However, almost all of this evidence deals with death, which is only part of a religious belief system," Dr Freeman said.

"At El Juyo, this site has nothing to do with death. Its symbolism is more universal and tells us about other aspects of the belief system."

"For example, the fact that hunting weapons were kept separate from sewing imple-



This face, half human and half animal, was hewn from a rock by Stone Age men some 14,000 years ago.

ments in the sanctuary strongly suggests that the difference between male and female roles in the material culture was also important to the religious ceremonies."

The stone head is a particularly significant find since it portrays a face that is half human and half animal. The scientists said a "moulding" of the sculpture is 14 inches tall, 15 inches wide and eight inches deep. The makers took a rock that had a natural vertical fissure and used this crack to divide the face. A horizontal crack across the lower part of the surface became the basis of a mouth on both sides.

On one side of the rock is the face of a smiling man with moustache and beard. On the other is the face of a cat with a moustache, whiskers and a single, pointed tooth.—AP.

Ceausescu seeks say in nuclear talks

From Dossa Trevisan, Bucharest, Nov 29

With the Soviet-American talks beginning in Geneva tomorrow, President Ceausescu of Romania has reactivated his personal diplomacy behind the drive for nuclear disarmament. He has addressed letters to the Soviet and the American leaders appealing to them to do everything in order to attain this goal.

Romania does not want to be left out in the cold and leave to the big powers to go it alone.

To leave no one in any doubt about his personal power and perhaps also to divert attention from Romania's continuing economic ills, the Grand National Assembly, the Romanian Parliament, yesterday paid a personal tribute to President Ceausescu when it entrusted him with conveying the Romanian view to the Soviet and United States heads of state.

President Ceausescu's "great peace initiative" the Assembly's resolution said "evinces his high sense of responsibility for the fate of the nation and of mankind". For weeks so-called peace demonstrations have been organized throughout the country. They clearly serve to demonstrate popular support for Mr Ceausescu's foreign policy at a time when there must be serious doubts about his domestic policy.

The failure of the economic policy, the Assembly said, "has caused in all fields of life and the role his family is playing are clearly adding resentment to public frustration. So far, the failures have been blamed on cabinet ministers, and frequent government changes suggest that the scaregost tactics have worked so far."

Recently reports of labour unrest and even of violence in the coal-mining area were never confirmed officially nor reported in the press. Confir- mation of trouble came indirectly, however, when several high officials including the director of the mining industry in the Oltenia region were dismissed during last week's Central Committee meeting.

The meeting was described by Mr Ceausescu as "extraordinary for its harshly critical undertones. But he added in his closing speech that this was a sign of strength rather than weakness, and that the Western press would try to distort it in order to claim that "things do not go too well in Romania".

The debate, he said, was in fact evidence of democracy.

Foreign debt, page 15

ARAB INTERNATIONAL BANK



المصرف العربي الدولي

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 1981 and 1980

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

ASSETS	1981	1980
Cash and due from banks	37,717	33,793
Time deposits	939,834	897,729
Investments		
Marketable notes and bonds	68,012	54,458
Equity participations	29,051	29,160
Loans and advances		
Less provision	417,159	292,370
Accounts receivable and accrued interest	41,383	22,134
Property and equipment	26,017	23,244
	1,559,173	1,352,888
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Demand deposits	127,101	152,461
Time deposits	1,149,772	932,790
Accounts payable and accrued interest	42,850	36,055
Proposed dividends	15,000	15,000
Floating rate notes 1983	25,000	25,000
	1,359,723	1,161,306
Shareholders' equity		
Share capital	100,000	100,000
Statutory reserve	21,003	18,433
General reserve	73,997	68,567
Retained earnings	4,450	4,582
	199,450	191,582
Total Shareholders' equity	1,559,173	1,352,888
Liabilities under Credits, Guarantees and Acceptances	240,000	222,000

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Business as usual despite dead-heat Muldoon says

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington, Nov 29

The ruling National Party under Mr Robert Muldoon is determined to hold on to power in New Zealand after an inconclusive weekend election left the Government without a clear majority.

Recounts are underway after the vote in which the results could hinge on three marginal seats, one of which the Government holds by 16 votes only.

"We are ahead. We are the Government," Mr Muldoon, the Prime Minister, told supporters. He said he considered the results of Saturday's poll a victory, though his National Party lost five seats and won one back to finish with 46 seats, tied with the opposition Labour Party at 44 seats and the Social Credit League at two seats.

Because of the narrowness of some majorities, and absentee votes could upset the provisional results. As well as winning the central North Island seat of Taupo from Labour by 16 votes, the National Party was clinging to Helensville — a semi-rural district near Auckland — with a reduced majority of 44.

At the same time Labour won the east coast city of Gisborne with a small margin of 96.

Mr Muldoon said it was business as usual for the Government. "We are going to go ahead with the growth strategy I put forward."

He would not be making any approach to Sir David Beattie, the governor-general, because there was no need to tell him that he would form a government. The question did not arise. He did not propose to summon parliament till next May and he expected to govern through the full parliamentary term until 1984.

The problem constitutionally could sharpen if Labour were to pick up one of the marginal seats when the final votes are in, leaving the House of Representatives equally divided between the main parties with 45 seats each. After supplying a Speaker, the party forming the government would then be even more dependent upon Social Credit support.

In that situation Sir David might face some quandary as to whom to invite first to attempt to form a government. So far, however, Sir David, a former Supreme

Court judge who was appointed last year on the recommendation of the Muldoon Government, has declined to comment except to say he will await events.

Mr Muldoon said no accommodation was necessary with the Social Credit League, which holds the balance of power. Mr Bruce Beetham, the Social Credit leader, reinforced Mr Muldoon's optimism about continuing to govern by saying he could see no reason why the National Party should not form a government nor why the Prime Minister should resign.

He could not envisage Mr Muldoon calling another election as he would probably lose.

Mr Beetham has repeated earlier assurances that in a "hung" Parliament, Social Credit would exercise its power responsibly. It would not bring the government down on votes of supply or confidence. "The new balance will not lead to instability," he said last night. "There is no reason why it should unless the Government adopts intolerable attitudes."

The Social Credit movement with its cheap money policy has been on the fringes of New Zealand politics since the 1920s. Under the personable Mr Beetham it has broadened its appeal to encompass middle-of-the-road policies, the championing of free enterprise, and opposition to heavy foreign investment.

In a poll in which the only feature of the high 90 per cent turnout was an absence of any uniform swing, Social Credit improved its voting share by four percentage points and emerged as second party in 18 constituencies.

Mr Wallace Rowling, the Labour Party leader, described the overall result as the worst possible option for the country. The Government would find it impossible to govern with 46 seats in the 92-member Parliament.

A residue of feeling over the controversial Springbok rugby tour influenced the poll, generally favouring the Government in the rural centres but telling against it in the cities particularly in the Wellington area where it entered the lists of the Minister and two undersecretaries.

Compromise hint on Sinai peace force

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Nov 29

The Israeli Cabinet, meeting today at the hospital bedside of Mr Menachem Begin the Prime Minister, decided to postpone for 24 hours its decision on whether to veto the participation of Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands in the Sinai peace-keeping force.

The official reason for the delay was medical advice restricting the time that Mr Begin — who is recovering from an operation for a broken hip bone — could preside over the meeting.

But there was speculation that ministers wanted more time to consider a last-minute compromise put forward by the United States in an attempt to avert the threatened veto.

The force is to be deployed in Sinai after Israel's withdrawal next year in terms of the Camp David accord.

A special Cabinet session will be held in Jerusalem tomorrow to decide on Israel's stand, but neither Mr Begin nor Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, will participate. Earlier, Mr Begin had said he would personally propose a veto, because of European insistence on linking participation with the EEC's Venice declaration on the Middle East, which Israel opposes.

It is understood that the suggested compromise is in the form of a draft joint declaration of principle about the force which was hammered out in Washington on Friday during talks between Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State.



Mr Shamir (left) in Washington with Mr Haig, with whom he had a marathon negotiating session.

Before this morning's Cabinet session in Jerusalem, Mr Begin, Mr Shamir and Mr Sharon held private talks to formulate Israel's stand. It is believed that the proposed statement will be presented to the Cabinet tomorrow with a number of amendments to the version which emerged from the State Department talks.

Although uncertainty still surrounded the threatened veto, there were signs tonight that Mr Haig was getting at least succeeded in having it postponed. But there was no guarantee that a statement of principle on the lines demanded by Israel will be acceptable to Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands, without a restatement of their original positions.

Israel radio indicated tonight that the government is hoping to restrict the statement to a simple affirmation that the force is being established in the context of the Camp David agreement.

In a radio interview Mr Shamir said his sudden visit to the United States had been to avoid a crisis in Israeli-American relations over European participation in the 2,500 strong force.

The earlier urgency to take a final Cabinet vote had landed him in a coalition dispute, because he flew back to Israel on the Sabbath.

In another interview Mr Shamir said it would not be a tragedy if European or other countries did not join the Sinai force: it could operate without them.

Doctors said today that Mr Begin was making a good recovery after Thursday's fall, though he was said to have been in pain at today's Cabinet meeting.

Pro-Arab Israeli protesters arrested

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 29

The Israeli army used force to disperse some 200 Israeli left-wingers who demonstrated in occupied Ramallah in support of the Palestinian cause. Dozens of tear gas canisters were fired into the crowd and truncheon-wielding soldiers and border policemen pursued the fleeing men and women into side streets.

Forty-nine demonstrators were detained. Six of them were taken to Jerusalem for further interrogation and the others were sent home at 3 am.

The protesters comprised Jews and Arab citizens of Israel, including professors and students of Israeli universities, who had organized the protest against the military government's closing down Bir Zeit, the largest Arab institution of higher learning in the country, after riots there.

In placards and pamphlets, the protesters also condemned the punitive dynamiting of homes in Beit Sahour and Bethlehem and the suspension of the PLO newspaper, *Al Fajr*.

The authorities had learnt of the planned demonstration and set up roadblocks on the approaches to Ramallah, but the protesters outflanked them using side roads. About a hundred assembled in Ramallah's main square and unfurled placards, reading "End the occupation."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Police find six shot in Miami

Miami. — Six people were found shot dead apparently with automatic weapons, on Saturday night in a fashionable suburban home. An anonymous caller told police that the bodies of the victims, including a baby, were at the ranch-style house. No drugs were found, but police said that automatic weapons were found strewn around the house.

Toxic oil is seized in Spain

Madrid. — Civil Guards in western Spain have seized a consignment of toxic oil and arrested two people who were alleged to have been preparing to ship it to Madrid, according to sources in the capital. The guards were said to have confiscated more than two tons of the oil. Contaminated Spanish oil has already killed about 200 people since May.

Inca treasures in museum theft

Lima. — Police have detained more than 100 people in a big search for thieves who broke into Peru's National Archaeological Museum and stole 34 priceless gold and silver objects dating from the Inca period. Interpol has been alerted.

De Broglie case confusion

Four accused, but a whole system on trial

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 29

No wonder justice is always portrayed blindfold. When the politicians, the police and even the judges all go out of their way to keep it in the dark, it does not have an easy task discovering the truth.

After four weeks of hearings, the only thing that is certain about the Broglie case is that the scion of one of the leading aristocratic families of France, prominent politician, former minister and cofounder with M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of the Independent Republican Party, was shot dead in broad daylight on a Paris street on December 24, 1976.

Even after the spectacular evidence given on Friday by M Michel Poniatowski, the Interior Minister at the time of the crime, and of all the leading members of the police hierarchy intimately associated with the investigation into the case, the reason why Prince Jean de Broglie was murdered is as unclear as ever. Nor is it any clearer who organized the crime.

The four men in the dock, including the one who confessed that he had actually pulled the trigger, appear increasingly as mere accessories or instruments in the murder. The officially stated motive for it, the wiping out of a debt of 4m francs (£370,000) lent by the victim for the purchase of a well-known Paris restaurant, no longer carries conviction with any of the parties to the trial.

The crime was no ordinary one. As one commentator wrote when the trial opened: "All bodies look alike. But they are not all of the same importance. The body of Jean de Broglie interested the very outset, the politicians, the police, and even the judiciary succeeded in turning it into one of the biggest politico-judicial affairs of the Fifth Republic by all conspiring to trivialize it and hush it up."

Four days after the murder, M Poniatowski had triumphantly announced to the press that the police had

cleared up the case and the culprits were under lock and key. France might have some of the most skillful police investigators in the world, but this haste in putting a lid on the affair was bound to be suspect.

Nearly four years later, the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* disclosed that if the police had proved so efficient, the reason was that three months before the murder, they had known about the crime and the men who were planning it, thanks to the report of a reliable police informer.

The question which immediately sprang to everyone's mind was whether the Minister of the Interior, who controlled the police, had also known about these plans. Furthermore, why was it that nothing had been done to warn the victim and to take adequate steps to protect him? And why neither the minister nor the police had ever mentioned the police informer's report to the judge investigating the case?

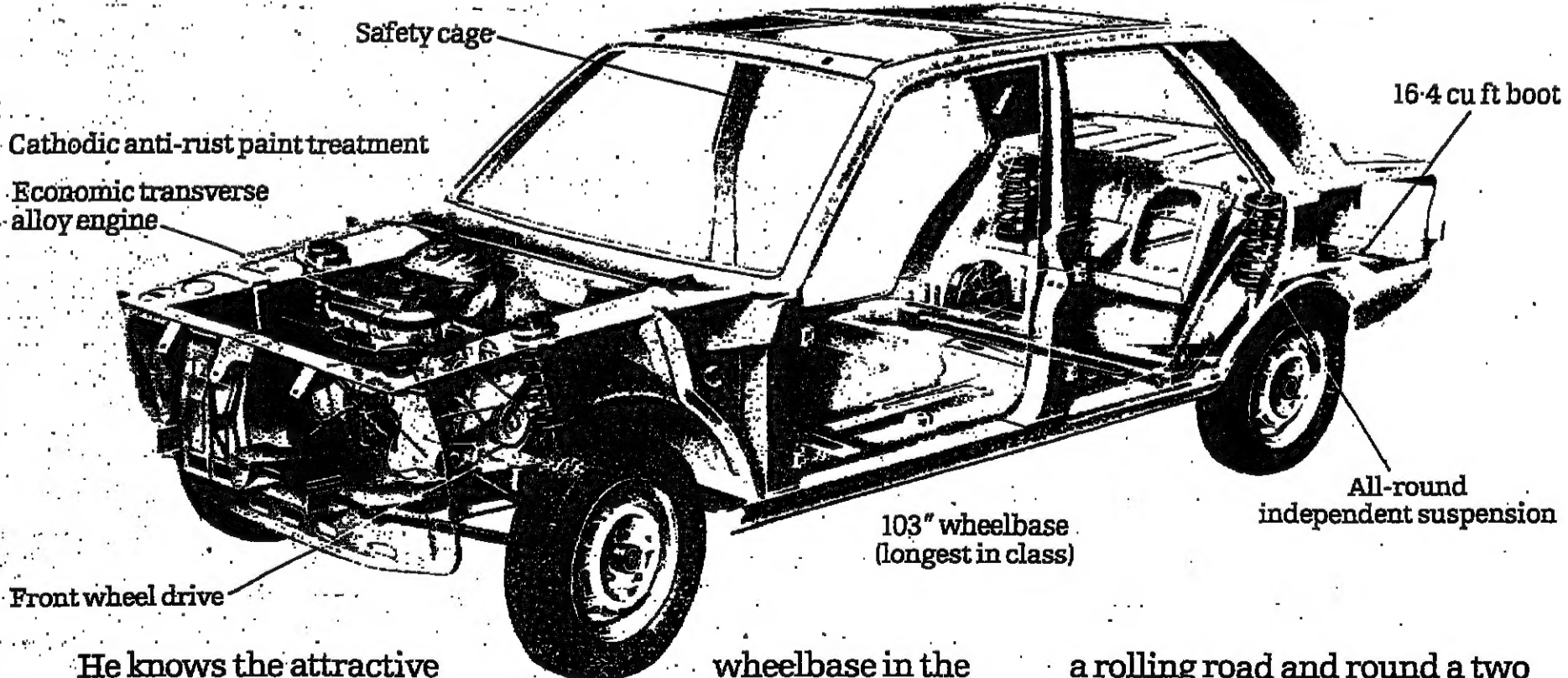
M Poniatowski declared in court last week that he had only learnt about the report of the police informer four days after the crime. He had not mentioned it because he was sure the judge knew about it.

The judge investigating the case declared in court that once he had obtained the police report "by devious means," he had not put it on the official file of the case because he had given his word not to do so to the person who had procured it for him.

So for the past week, and doubtless for those to come, the Paris assizes hearing the case of the murder of Prince Jean de Broglie have been trying not the four men in the dock, who seemed almost strangers to the affair, but the liberties taken by politicians, police officers and even judges with the law they were supposed to serve, and the methods they felt entitled to resort to.



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Danes fear stalemate

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen, Nov 29

An opinion poll published today in the influential *Jyllands Posten* indicates little sign of an end to the political stalemate in Danish politics, where neither the left nor the right enjoy a workable parliamentary majority. But it does predict a clear swing towards the Conservative Party away from the ruling Social Democrats.

General elections are to be held on December 8. The Social Democratic minority Government of Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, fell over economic policy.

Chad will recall Libyan troops 'if OAU fails'

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Nov 29

President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad signed a formal agreement yesterday, along with other African leaders, for an Organization of African Unity peace-keeping force to operate in Chad.

The OAU force is being formed to replace the Libyan troops who were recently withdrawn from Chad after pressure from African countries.

But President Goukouni, who had tried unsuccessfully to convince the African leaders here that the OAU force should be authorized to fight against his opponents, expressed reservations about its ability to control the situation in his country.

He told a press conference that he would not hesitate to ask the Libyans to return if the African force failed to live up to his expectations.

"If our young army does not manage to maintain order, and if the OAU hesitates, the Chadian government has the right to appeal to friendly countries for troops to put down the rebellion — and the OAU will not be able to say a thing," he said.

When asked if he would appeal to Libya or France for troops in such circumstances, President Goukouni replied: "Why not appeal to

Libya? We are not enemies, we are friends."

The meeting here, at which President Moi, chairman of the OAU, presided, ended yesterday with agreement on arrangements for the OAU force. Zairean and Senegalese troops have already arrived in Ndjamena, and are due to be followed by a larger force from Nigeria, which will also supply the force commander.

Benin and Togo are also likely to send troops, but OAU officials said they did not know whether Guinea would now contribute to the force.

The headquarters for the OAU force is to be set up by December 2. All troops are due to arrive by December 10, and they are to take up their positions each contingent being responsible for a different area of Chad — by December 17.

Tripoli. — Colonel Gaddafi has declared that Libya will remain neutral if fighting breaks out again in Chad, according to the official Jama News Agency (AP reports).

He said Libya would continue to offer Chad economic support for reconstruction and not abandon its people to be "victims of the United States, Western Europe and reactionary African or Arab countries".

Eanes cements African ties

From Jill Jolliffe, Maputo, Nov 29

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes of Portugal returned to Maputo last night after a two-day tour of central Mozambique. He visited the Cahora Bassa project in Tete Province, a \$2,000m (£1,000m) hydroelectric scheme which will supply southern Africa with most of its power.

The Cahora Bassa dam was begun before Portugal's 1974 revolution, but was not nationalized after Mozambique's independence. Almost 87 per cent of its capital is Portuguese.

Tete Province has been worried by the activities of the Mozambique national resistance guerrillas opposed to the Frelimo Government, but President Eanes travelled in relaxed security conditions

Security stepped up around Mitterrand

From Our Correspondent Paris, Nov 29

In the past few days security measures have been stepped up around President Mitterrand, at his home in Paris and in his country retreat in the Landes.

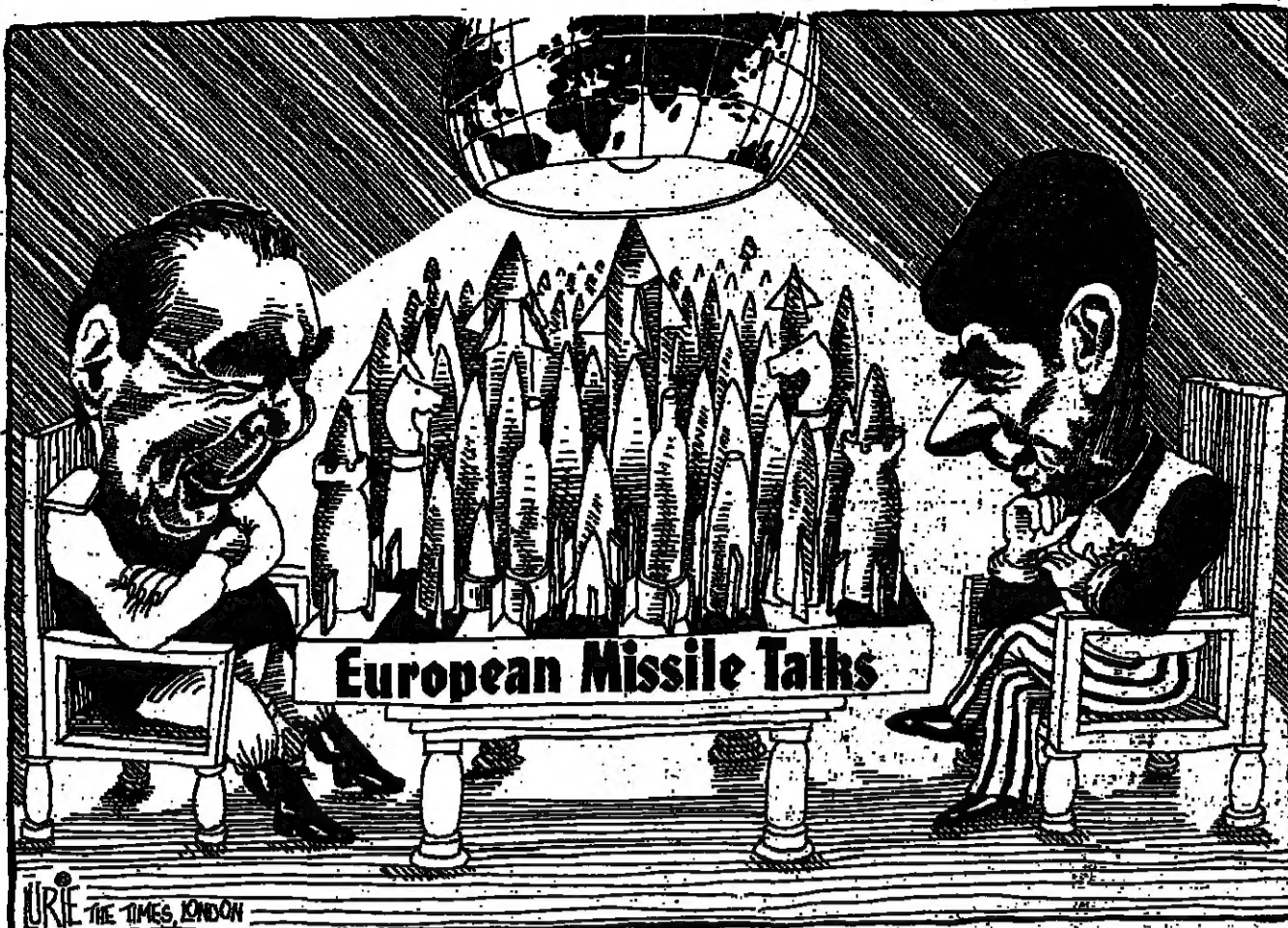
Several incidents recently have worried the President's guards. A week ago, in an assault on a reservist camp near Fois (south of Toulouse), a dozen masked men seized weapons after over-coming guards. They took their time choosing 113 machine pistols and four heavy machine guns. According to M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, the arms as in other reservist camps, were "neutralized" but could easily be made operational.

The Secret Army Organization Delta claimed responsibility for the raid. M Mitterrand is to start an official visit to Algeria tomorrow and Delta wants to prevent the handing over of archives, brought to France when Algeria was given independence. France promised to return the archives, which are said to be politically incriminating, and which have already aroused much controversy here.

Delta has already been heard of as a branch of the OAS (Secret Army Organization), which threatened to destroy the Algerian archives. Delta is also threatening "military actions" against French Government officials.

In addition to Delta, the recent activities of Armenian terrorists and signs that extreme right-wing organizations are re-grouping have disquieted those responsible for the President's safety.

But General Jean Saurin, who is in charge of presidential security, will not find his job easy. M Mitterrand considers the Elysée Palace as his office, returning nightly to his private residence in the Rue de Bièvre, a quiet street on the Left Bank.



Nowhere to move

Pretoria denies hand in Seychelles fiasco

From Michael Hargrave, Johannesburg, Nov 29

A deeply embarrassed South African Government has issued strong denial of allegations in black Africa and at the United Nations that it was involved in last week's failed coup against President Albert René of the Seychelles.

Mr Roeloff Botha, the Foreign Minister, said it was no secret that "at least two dissident groups" existed which desired the overthrow of the present government of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The South African Government had been approached "several times" by representatives of these groups "asking for assistance for their plans

and claiming to have considerable support for their cause in Africa and elsewhere."

"On each and every occasion their representatives were told categorically that it was the policy of the South African Government not to concern itself with adventures of this nature," Mr Botha's statement insisted.

Amid the welter of conflicting reports and rumours about the bizarre Seychelles affair, the few certainties are that the band of mercenaries involved in the attempted coup were recruited here and that about half of the 44 men being detained near Pretoria are South Africans.

The 44 were part of the mercenary group and hijacked an Air India Boeing 707, forcing it to fly them to Durban, where it became clear that the coup attempt had been bungled. They gave themselves up to South African police in Durban after five hours of negotiation.

Authoritative sources here have confirmed that Colonel "Mad Mike" Hoare, the mercenary leader of S Com-mando in the Congo civil war in the 1960s, is among those being held.

About 300 British tourists have been stranded in the Seychelles since the abortive coup (our foreign staff write).

While the British High Commission in Victoria was attempting to get in touch with the tourists, confined in their hotels because of the curfew, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, assured the Seychelles Government of British support.

In London, Seychelles exiles claimed that they were behind the attack. "We backed last week's attempted coup with financial and other help," said Mr Paul Clovis, spokesman for the about 700 people living in Britain who oppose the present regime.

Strike ban powers sought in Poland

Warsaw, Nov 29. — The Polish Parliament (Sejm) is expected to be summoned into session in the next few days to debate legislation to combat the country's political and economic crisis, well informed sources say today.

It will consider what amounts to an order from the ruling Communist Party to grant the Government special powers which could include an outright ban on strikes and imposition of a state of emergency.

The Party's central committee said in a resolution adopted last night after a two-day session that extraordinary powers were indispensable to counter actions which threatened the very existence of Poland.

The resolution did not spell out the precise nature of the emergency powers, but it recalled that successive attempts to restrict strikes had been ignored. Parliament has twice held back from a ban, since Polish workers won the right to strike in their August 1980 labour revolt.

Communist Solidarity reports at the weekend indicated that talks between them on the economic reform programme, due to go into effect next year, had revealed that the Government had made clear that it would not submit meekly to a law depriving it of the right to strike — Reuters.

Leaders of some 100,000 striking students called an emergency meeting today to discuss the situation. The country's first independent student association, which is coordinating the biggest student protest in the communist bloc, appealed to Solidarity for help and support for their strike. — AP.

[A new Solidarity weekly magazine, self-management, was launched last night. The agency IAP reported today. — AFP.]

Law Report November 30 1981

Domicile of pre-1974 wife

Inland Revenue Commissioners v The Duchess of Bedford. Before Mr Justice Nourse. Judgment delivered November 26.

A woman married before the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973 and domiciled in England at the time of her marriage, who continued to live with her husband, though he intended ultimately to return to his domicile of origin, was not to be treated as if she had acquired a domicile of choice in England, but had also to take up residence permanently in another country, leaving her husband if necessary.

His Lordship, allowing an appeal in the Chancery Division by the Crown, held that the Duchess of Bedford (at the date of hearing before the Special Commissioners, Lady William Cavendish-Bentinck) had a Canadian domicile of origin, did not acquire a domicile of choice in Canada following the passing of the Act. He reversed the commissioners' decision that had allowed her claim under section 12(2)(a) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 that she was not liable to pay United Kingdom income tax on unremitted overseas income.

The Duchess was born and had a domicile of origin in Quebec in 1914. She married the Duke, then Lord William Cavendish-Bentinck, and thereby acquired a domicile of dependency in England. They lived in London but the Duchess always intended to return to Quebec should her husband predecease her or agree to go with her. She owned and kept for their use a house at Montserrat, Quebec. Every year she spent about two weeks there.

Mr W. A. MacPherson, QC, and Mr John Laws for the Crown; Sir John Foster, QC, for the Duchess.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973 was enacted to abolish "the last barbarous relic of a wife's servitude" — the domicile of

dependency. Section 1(1) placed women, marrying after the coming into force of the Act, in the same position as any other individual capable of having an independent domicile.

However, section 1(2) governed the position of women married prior to the Act and provided that, if the husband was domiciled in another country, the wife was to be treated as if she had acquired a domicile of choice in that country, even though the facts established that she would have been domiciled in the real world.

It necessarily followed that the question whether, after the Act came into force, the Duchess abandoned her English domicile had to be determined by reference to the test appropriate to the abandonment of a domicile of choice. That test was contained in Rule 13 (1) of Dicey & Morris: The Conflict of Laws.

It was not disputed that the Duchess had ceased to intend to reside permanently in England, and that she had acquired a domicile of choice in Canada by ceasing to reside there and by coming to intend to reside permanently or indefinitely, and not otherwise.

It was not disputed that the Duchess had ceased to intend to reside permanently in England, and that she had acquired a domicile of choice in Canada by ceasing to reside there and by coming to intend to reside permanently or indefinitely, and not otherwise.

It was necessary to consider also, there, an existing domicile which could sometimes be abandoned, and another acquired by a woman after marriage in the same country. But that was impossible in a case where a domiciliary divided his physical presence between two countries, as the Duchess had done since 1946, as a inhabitant of it. This residence was not displaced when she went to Canada in July 1974.

Since 1946 the Duchess had returned to Quebec annually. For the past 15 years she had lived and maintained ready for their occupation the house at Montserrat, but since 1948 she had otherwise lived with her husband in England. It was clear that the Duchess had been physically present in this country since 1946, as a inhabitant of it. This residence was not displaced when she went to Canada in July 1974.

Sir John Foster had pointed out that if she and the Duke had ceased to reside in the United Kingdom in 1974, the effect of section 1(1) of the Act would have been to preserve the Duchess's domicile of origin: see Inland Revenue Commissioners v Bullock (1976) 1 WLR 1178. That was accepted to be the case but it was clear that a woman living in England with her husband who was married prior to 1974 could only free herself from the shackles of dependency, by choosing to leave her husband for good, and to acquire a domicile of choice in another country. That was a very limited freedom and it was less than that available under section 1(2) of the Act, which provided that a woman who was married before the Act was to be treated as if she had never acquired her domicile of dependency.

The Duchess alternatively submitted that a person who had the necessary intention to cease to reside permanently in the country of his former domicile, and to reside in another country, could cease that residence merely by leaving the country for a short time, and returning to it in any form of use of English to denote that as a cessation of residence in the first country. The appeal was allowed. The Crown did not ask for costs.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue, Bailey, Shaw & Gillett.

Where ignorance is a defence

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Hart. Before Lord Justice Ormrod and Mr Justice Woolf.

Judgment delivered November 24.

Where a person was disqualified for appointment as an auditor of a company because he was already a director, secretary, or manager of that company he was not guilty of an offence under section 13 of the Companies Act 1976 unless he knew that he was disqualified.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, appealed to the Divisional Court by way of case stated against the decision of Mr Edward J Branson, a metropolitan stipendiary magistrate at Wells Street, on April 7, 1981, that the respondent, Mr William Peter Hart, was not guilty of acting as an auditor of AMF Ashby Metal Fabrications Ltd and Angus Safety Equipment Ltd knowing that he was disqualified by reason of being a director and secretary of the first company and a director of the second company.

Mr Alan Moses for the Secretary of State; the respondent's person.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that the respondent had acted as an auditor when he was disqualified was not in dispute. The only issue was whether he had the necessary mens rea to constitute the offence before the respondent contended

that he was in ignorance of the statutory provisions. The magistrate found that the respondent knew of the prohibition and so the mens rea was lacking. Accordingly the prosecution had failed to establish a case within the criminal provisions of section 13.

The Secretary of State was concerned with that view of the law was convenient to look at the Companies Act as it was in 1948. Section 161(2) disqualified certain officers of a company from holding the appointment of auditor in the same company. Section 435 defined the term "officer" as including a director, manager or secretary.

That section disqualified the respondent from holding office as an auditor. It was not disputed that no person should act as an auditor when he knew he was disqualified, and it was not in dispute that he became disqualified he should vacate office. It was significant that section 161(2) in the 1948 Act contained an absolute prohibition, whereas section 13(5) of the 1976 Act was put in different terms.

Section 13(6) of the 1976 Act provided that the category of persons who could be guilty of a criminal offence, it was with subsection (6) that the court was primarily concerned.

Mr Moses contended that when subsections (6) and (7) were read together, a person who knew the facts or circumstances which caused him to be disqualified but did not know that he was disqualified was not guilty of an offence. It was not necessary for a person charged under the subsection to know as a matter of law that he was disqualified; a person should know the provisions of the law.

In his Lordship's view the words of the subsection should be read in the ordinary way, and they said that a person was not guilty of the offence unless he knew he was disqualified from holding the office of auditor. It clearly required some element of mens rea.

Mr Moses contended that the offence was not absolute, but sought to introduce a limited form of knowledge. However, it would be wrong and an undesirable limitation on the statute to qualify mens rea. The magistrate's view was correct, which might mean that it would be necessary for the Companies Act 1976 to be looked at again by Parliament as it might be unduly favourable to auditors.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD agreed. The language used in the subsection was explicit. Unless the respondent knew of the offence, he was not guilty. Solicitor: Treasury Solicitor.

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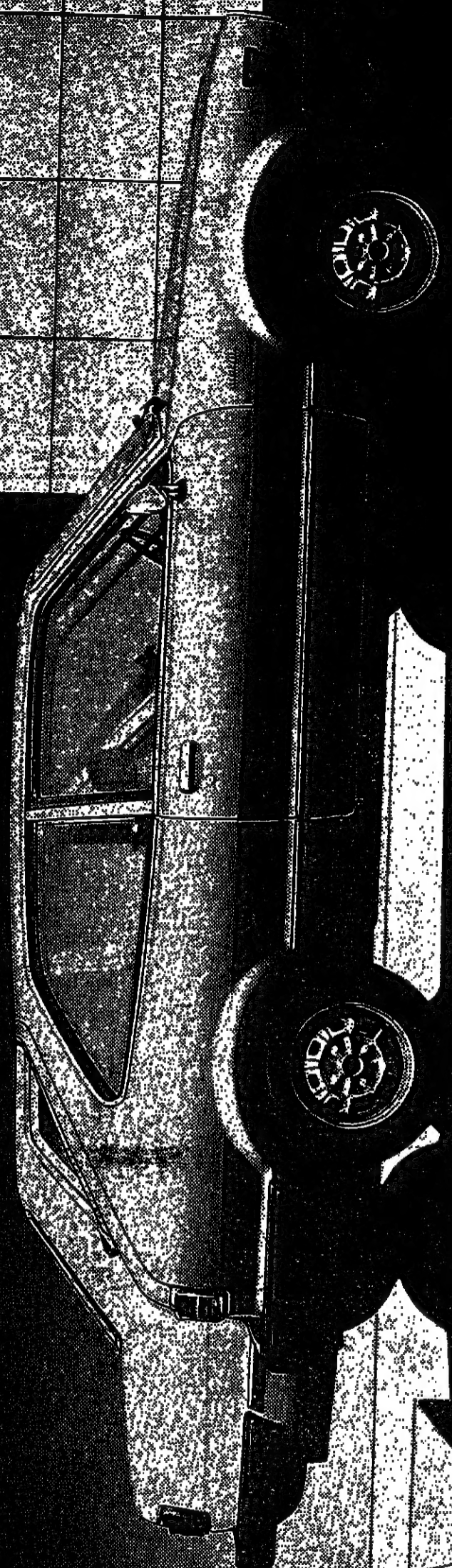
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Why the doctor sometimes misses a trick

Today most people want more information and consultation when experts deal with them. Newspapers and television programmes help to explain what the experts are doing in every specialty — especially in medicine. Patients today want to know more about what a doctor is deciding when he is trying to help them.

Clearly the recipient of advice gains if they understand what is behind the words used, but the gains that increased knowledge can bring are being threatened by an increasingly mechanistic approach in some parts of medicine.

Medicine is not a precise science; doctoring is still the business of one human looking after another. There is a degree of inexactitude in medicine which places it somewhere between lawn mower maintenance and dinghy sailing. It is no good expecting results in medicine which match those of servicing a television set.

Six main reasons explain why patients should not have unrealistic expectations.

There is no diagnosis for every symptom.

Try as he may, a doctor cannot always find a cause for all his patients' symptoms. Backache or abdominal pain deserve full investigation, but after all the tests have been done the doctor may still have to turn to the patient and say he has not found a cause. It may be some consolation that at least the patient has not got any of the diseases that the tests would have shown up.

There is no treatment for every diagnosis.

For many conditions which doctors can identify, we have no effective treatment. We can treat the symptom by giving, for example, pain-relieving drugs or antiacid tablets, but the underlying condition follows its own course. Fortunately, many diseases clear up as unpredictably as they arrive, and the relief may be either temporary or permanent. The doctor can often help the patient by relieving symptoms until the disease clears up.

There are no certain cures.

Even when medical treatment is effective, the operation is performed or the drugs given only with the probability of improving the individual patient's condition. The body is not a simple machine; removing diseased parts or treating them with drugs does not always work. A treatment with an 85 per cent probability of working sounds good, and that is, indeed, a high cure rate, but the other side of the coin is that in 15 per cent of patients the treatment does not work. No treatment has a 100 per cent probability of cure.

Most treatments have some side-effects.

When a doctor interferes with the body by surgery or by giving drugs, he hopes that the benefits of what he does will outweigh its disadvantages. The greater the benefits and the fewer the side-effects, the better the treatment is, but no treatment is without some side-effects. Even a simple aspirin, taken for a headache, may damage the stomach and cause internal bleeding. The choice of any treatment involves the doctor balancing the chances of cure (or relief of symptoms) against the risks of unwanted side-effects.

Different doctors use different treatments.

In very few diseases is there a single treatment that stands out head and shoulders above all others. In most cases, there is a choice between treatments which work slightly differently according to the stage of the disease and the response of the individual patient. One of the arts of medicine is a doctor's ability to use his past experience to decide that in a certain patient treatment A is more likely to produce results than treatment B. Some doctors get better results than others.

People respond to treatment in different ways.

Our responses to drugs and to operations vary; sometimes these variations are minor but they can become major. For example, side-effects are commonly very much less marked in some patients than others; in such cases a doctor can press on with stronger doses of the treatment, thus producing a faster or a better cure. If side-effects are troublesome, however, less drug may have to be used so treatment may be less effective.

These factors may sound like truisms, but anyone trying to understand what is happening in medicine must bear them in mind. There are few absolutes and many relative factors; every time a patient consults a doctor, he should be weighing up the pros and cons of any method of therapy. Whether it is an operation for cancer, psychoanalysis, giving a course of injections, or all have advantages and disadvantages and all need matching to the group of symptoms which that individual doctor. We should not expect consistency from one patient to another or from one doctor to another — which is why a doctor cannot use his practice in the way that a lawnmower manufacturer can run his assembly line.

Geoffrey Chamberlain

Sir Alec Guinness had hung up George Smiley for the day. He opened the door to black patent slippers, a maroon cardigan and open shirt, visibly tired after a hard day's filming on *Smiley's People*, the sequel to *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* which the BBC will broadcast in the autumn of next year.

He was snug in a room at the Connaught — a luxury provided by a brief appearance in *The Empire Strikes Back*. He had wanted no fee. His agent demanded a share of the profits; hence a healthy profit and a little self-indulgence when away from home. At first he had said no interviews, I'll speak on the telephone. But good manners overcame self-protection and he extended an invitation for a giggle evening talking shop. He was delighted that the Spanish waiter persisted in calling him Sir Alec. The interview lasted short of midnight. The next day was an early start and Smiley needed to run over his lines.

Where did he find the character of John Le Carré's retired spy-master? "There was first the book, obviously. Then John Le Carré wondered whether I wanted to meet someone. He denies that he based Smiley on that man — oh, why mince words, you know as well as I do that it was meant to be the former head of MI6, Maurice Oldfield, who's now dead. God rest his soul. Anyway, there were remarkable resemblances physically and in manner, maybe."

"But I think it is a little unfair on Le Carré and on Oldfield to push that point. After *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* I had very charmingly said to Oldfield, 'I still can't recognize myself'. So he obviously knew what the game was. I didn't try to mimic him or impersonate him in any way. It's just that you nearly always pick up some little thing when meeting a person like that if you are going to play something in the same area."

George Smiley is the latest in a career-long parade of characters invented by Guinness which began in film at least with his portrayal of Herbert Focker in David Lean's *Great Expectations* in 1946. As the retrospective season now playing at the National Film Theatre proves, Guinness is perhaps the most versatile character actor that cinema has produced. This desire to avoid finding a permanent, comfortable role began on the stage.

"I think that that probably came when one was very young before the war, working in the Old Vic with Gielgud and places like that. Unless you were a matinee idol or a juvenile lead you were a character actor and you played a great variety of parts."

"After the war, when Olivier and Richardson invited me to go to the Old Vic I was delighted to be offered anything but I said I must please ask that you will give me a total variety of parts for these two seasons because I have no idea where my talent lies or if it exists any more. And they were as good as their word. They gave me a complete variety of parts and I still didn't know at the end where my talent lay."

His versatility and quiet acting style was a natural asset for film makers and he was quickly drafted into Ealing Studios, where, after *Great Expectations* and Lean's *Oliver Twist* (with Guinness as Fagin), he was offered a role in *Kind Hearts and Coronets*.

"I was offered one part. No, I was offered two, I think, and I did

The Times Profile: Sir Alec Guinness

Smiley looks back



Sir Alec Guinness: caught mimicking in the wings by a very great actor

not see the point of that. Either one or all the victims made sense. I sent a bold telegram saying wouldn't all eight be better? It was a rash moment."

Playing eight English aristocrats who stood between Dennis Price and a fortune cemented Guinness's highly marketable talent. From then the Ealing Studios, under Sir Michael Balcon, built a succession of films around him: *The Man in the White Suit*; *The Lavender Hill Mob*; *The Ladykillers*. They were successful in Britain and became cult films in the United States.

"I think my part in the Ealing comedies has been grossly exaggerated. After all, there were other ones which were just as successful, like *Passport to Pinion*, which I wasn't in. There was no great sense of belonging at Ealing. There was for technicians but I do not think that actors were much wanted there, really."

Does he miss the passing of Ealing and the British film industry? "As always in films, people carry on too far, not seeing when the curtain has fallen. I certainly regret that there is virtually no British industry at the moment, but it is probably just as well that what there was has finished so that what starts again — as it inevitably will — will be different."

"It is similar with the Old Vic. I think that it is very sad that the building is not being used. It is a lovely theatre. Lovely to act in. Obviously you must keep something if you can, but there is no use whipping up enthusiasm for something which doesn't exist. If there isn't a public for the Old Vic, we mustn't pretend that there is."

It was regular weekly visits to the Old Vic which convinced Guinness that he wanted to be an actor more than anything else. A small education allowance from his

father allowed him a meagre independent life which barely left the 6d pocket-money he granted himself each week to take him to the theatre. He walked three miles there and three miles back from his lodging in Westbourne Grove.

Failure at an advertising agency — "After my accident which left a hole in the front of the Daily Mail, they treated me gently, like an idiot" — led him to make a full-frontal assault on the acting profession.

"I didn't know Gielgud but I found his number somewhere and telephoned him. He was terribly nice on the phone. I would be bloody if anyone did that to me. He said I should go for voice lessons at someone like Marita Hunt. She'd be grateful for the money. Typically tactless remark. The man with a thousand faces."

His inspiration was not a lust for fame or money. The intrusion on privacy which being in the public

The career

The films of Sir Alec Guinness include: *Great Expectations* 1946 (debut), *Oliver Twist* 1948, *Kind Hearts and Coronets* 1949, *The Man in the White Suit* 1951, *The Ladykillers* 1955, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* 1957 (Oscar for best actor), *Our Man in Havana* 1959, *Lawrence of Arabia* 1962, *Hitler: The Last Ten Days* 1973, *Smiley's People* 1979.

His plays include: *The Cockatoo* (New York), *Hotel Paradise*, *Ross, Dylan* (New York), *Wise Child*, *A Voyage Round My Father*, *Habes Corpus*, *Yahoo* (which he also devised, in collaboration), *The Old Country*.



The Man in the White Suit (left), and Father Brown



As Lawrence in 'Ross', and the camp commander in 'River Kwai'



As Adolf Hitler, and George Smiley in 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy'

eye causes him, he describes as "torment". "When you set out becoming an actor, you never think of all that. You never think of the perks or the advantages. You never thought it would take you miles around the world and pay you handsomely. I just wanted to be someone else, to be in make-up, in disguise. I had no message to give to anyone. Just to be part of someone I thought was glamorous. Glamorous in quite a different way."

His ability to swap characters so easily, and so convincingly has given him the reputation of "the man with no face", a description which, along with "affident", he finds a trifle boring.

"It is absolute nonsense. You cannot go up on the stage or be on the screen without a face. But they all decided to call me that a long time ago. I think Rank didn't know how to deal with a young middle-aged man going bald, so their publicity department called me 'The man with a thousand faces'. Then, suddenly, I became the man with no face at all."

"Someone wrote that I had a face like a wig block. I have a nose, eyes, very large ears. I think with some people I am inclined to go blank when I am not interested in them and I suppose my face goes blank as well."

He also takes exception — mild exception, of course. Sir Alec is a man of extreme moderation when it comes to emotions — to the charge of being merely a mimic. "I used to be a bit of a mimic, but I was young. But I was caught mimicking in the wings once by a very great actor, Leo Quatermain, and he said 'You must make up your mind whether you want to be a mimic or an actor' and I knew what he meant. Most actors enjoy mimicking, but wouldn't use it for

acting. Except for Peter Sellers. He was a genius at mimicry and a beautiful actor."

But mimicry remains in the Guinness armoury, an essential element of telling his elusively humorous stories. Describing the short queue to the Queen when being knighted in 1959, he apes the Yorkshireman in front of him, yelping with glee: "We're going to be knights! We're going to be knights!" and the Palace flunkie who greeted them on the bog. You all do. It's down there" as he slips into Cockney nonchalance.

He has always been very careful to change tack on each successive project. His films have ranged from his work with David Lean on *The Bridge over the River Kwai*, for which he won an Oscar, *Dr Zhivago* and *Lawrence of Arabia*, to *Adolf Hitler: The Last Ten Days*. And he has teamed with stage actors, building an effective rapport with Alan Bennett, in *Habes Corpus* and *The Old Country*, and working on his own projects, such as the life of Dean Swift, *Yahoo*.

More recently he has appeared as the wizard Ben Kenobi in *Star Wars* and, of course, as George Smiley, a rare television appearance. He was so surprised by the success of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* that he thought his loyalty to the team which had produced it led him to break with tradition and return to play the same role twice. "There won't be a third series. Or if there is, I won't be in it."

His judgment is impeccable. Even when agreeing to a dubious project like *Star Wars*, it is because he had confidence in the director, George Lucas's, ability to make something of a distinction between what he was asked to do and looked a mediocre script. Guinness has an enviable low failure rate, which cannot be said of other actor knights.

"I can only conclude that they are wrong when they say I am thinking this is the last chance I have of making a few thousand pounds. I cannot believe that they have done some of the things for sheer pressure for money. It can come out of a handful in a way. Or it is just the talk you into things, so often."

There is no end of work for Guinness, now aged 67. He finishes shooting on *Smiley's People* just before Christmas and, after a pause, will start shooting a film in the new year. In between he will return to his three dogs (Walter, Dorcas and Bluebell), his wife's two goats and the house designed by his brother-in-law in ten acres of land near Petersfield in Hampshire, there to fight a campaign against a section of the Winchester by-pass which will come within 50 yards of his home.

He has no grand ambitions. He was asked to play King Lear next year in the BBC Shakespeare series, but his idea of playing the mad king as Tolstoy — an idea he later discovered, which had first been thought of by George Bernard Shaw — was thought unsuitable and the project collapsed, as did a floating idea for a revue with Alan Bennett based on the relationship between father and son.

But, since *Star Wars*, he has had a number of offers from America to live on his own with his wife, a "couple from San Diego" invited me to stay with them for a month to sort out their marital problems. I declined, of course."

Nicholas Wapshott

The National Film Theatre season of films featuring Sir Alec Guinness continues until December 12.

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Nurse McCulloch dispenses a second best-seller

The publishing sensation of the 1970s was *The Thorn Birds* — it went for \$1.99, nearly 600 pages of an Australian family saga stretching from 1915 to 1969. "Who is this woman?" cried the publishing world, never having heard of Colleen McCulloch, and not having read the book. Colleen McCulloch found her life turned upside down. The manager of a research laboratory at Yale found herself an instant celebrity.

The Thorn Birds sold more copies than any other novel in the last 10 years. Now for the second difficult feat — the book after the best seller. *An Indecent Obsession* (Macdonald, £6.95) is utterly different — it is short, concentrated in one place, a hospital ward, without any descriptive passages, and with a powerful woman, a nurse in charge of a ward of soldiers discharged from the army at the end of the war with "psychological" difficulties.

Just off the plane from New York, but un-jet lagged ("I'm an Australian — and it's so far from Australia that the Atlantic is a foot"), Colleen McCulloch has just done the American publicity round, pointing out that there's nothing new: "Charles Dickens flogged his books in the most unspeakable conditions not only up and down the British Isles but also right across America."

She feels she owes it to her publishers to make the book sell, though taking only a very small advance, so as to leave herself free. This is her third novel. "I made \$50,000 out of *Thorn*, which wasn't bad for a first novel, and I thought I'd always be a middle of the road, modest selling, respectable novelist" and she gives a great roar of laughter, because it didn't happen.

The publishing world went gaga, and so did the press. "Miss McCulloch, shortly," "but everybody made money out of *Thorn Birds*, which was great." Faced with the prospect of having to go on writing the same book for ever, she decided to change. "When you produce a book which is well loved — and people do love it — it's a very hard



Colleen McCulloch hooked on hospitals

book to bury. Perhaps I'll never be able to bury it."

A child of the Depression, she always wanted to be a writer, but realized that she would have to have a bread and butter job. She got a degree at Sydney University, and went to work in neurophysiology in a hospital, and got to the top of her profession "still chronically underpaid".

She had a grim and realistic vision of her future: "I knew I would have to go home and look after mother when I was 50, and try to hold down a job at the same time — then at 70 I'd be living in a cold-warmer, walk-up apartment, just about able to afford a 60-watt light bulb. If you're not married, that's your fate. I'd never have been able to buy a house; that's why I have three or four of them now. It's a collective race memory, the desire to own a bit of turf — and they can't take the house — one of them at least — off me."

At Yale she had been working for seven years or so, and going through 10 drafts of *The Thorn Birds*, without letting anyone know

anonymity, and you can't possibly work in a hospital if you are a celebrity, however minor or major, so I had to give it up."

She did publicity for the book for two years, all over the world, built a house in New Haven, Connecticut, but everyone knew where she was, and she never had a moment's peace to write. Now she lives on Norfolk Island, 1,000 miles off the east coast of Australia, on the same latitude as Brisbane. "It must be the most expensive air fare in the world," and the small community has accepted her, after an uneasy six months or so.

"It isn't what you are, it's who you are in a place like this. It's incredibly beautiful and peaceful and remote, and I live on my own with two cats in a delightfully old maidish existence. I get a heck of a lot of work done because there is nothing much else to do."

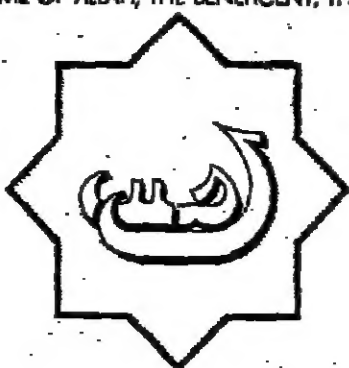
Obsession came from a novel written a long time ago ("I generally spend about 20 years on something — the first 19 are purely mental") which was concerned with six men on a Greek island dependent on one woman — she can't remember the plot, and she's burned the manuscript. Later she reread it and turned it into a short story, set in a mental hospital.

"*Thorn Birds* was my best, at an epic, and the next one is to be a biographical novel, about a woman who learned to fly in the 1930s, ferried aircraft in the war and then searched for flying jobs, seldom getting them "because the world is full of pilots out of a job and they are a mess." It is, she says, a love story without a hero, or a happy ending, the love object an experience, not a person.

Another obsession, perhaps? Just what was the indecent obsession? It was, in Wordsworth's description, the stern daughter of the sky. "The American grapevine says *An Indecent Obsession* will shortly be No 2 best seller. Miss McCulloch isn't going to miss a trick this time either."

Philippa Toomey

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL



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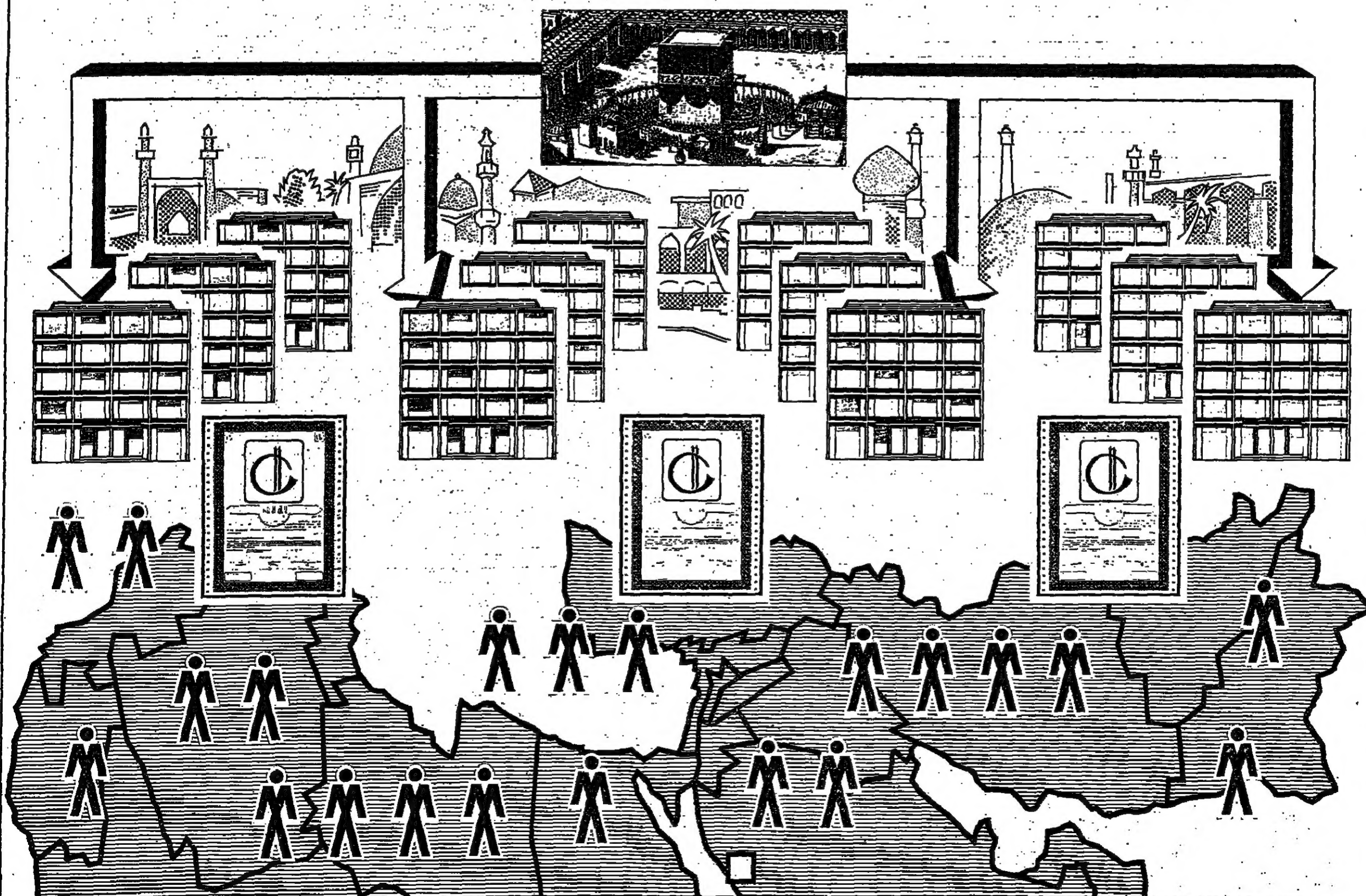
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How to make the next summit show results

by Edward Heath

If the European Community is to grow in internal cohesion and international stature, its supreme political authority, the European Council of heads of state or government, must be able to produce more than disagreements or platitudes. The failure of the Council's meeting in London last week to settle on solutions to the major problems of agriculture and finance which beset the Community has given added urgency to the question of how the effectiveness of this crucial institution can be improved.

When the European Council was established as a regular event in 1973, it was seen as the only way to inspire the Community with a bold vision for the future and to create the political guidelines by which to turn this vision into reality. Although the Council was not conceived as a body for taking decisions of a detailed technical nature, it was most definitely not created to be the test-party that into which it has often degenerated.

Practical experience, however, has shown that it is an illusion to believe that the European Council can leave all technical issues to ministers and officials. Many of the great tasks which face the Community today — monetary integration; industrial cooperation; the creation of a common energy policy; the development of more efficient common agricultural policy; budget reform — turn on the resolution of technical issues which involve decisions of a highly political nature. Often only heads of government have the authority to take these decisions.

Yet it is becoming increasingly clear that the European Council is, in general, failing to play its part in these roles. With three notable exceptions — the launching of the European Monetary System in 1979, the resolu-

tion on the Middle East at Venice in 1980, and the temporary settlement on Britain's budget contributions — it has failed either to take practical decisions or to provide a bold vision for the future.

I do not believe that the Council's disappointing record is a result of any serious defect in its institutional structure. To be sure, there are reforms which might modestly improve its effectiveness, such as creating direct links between it and the European Parliament and strengthening its responsibility for coordinating policy and the work of the Community's other institutions. Yet there are three other reasons for its ineffectiveness which are of far greater importance.

First, individual meetings of the European Council have all too often dealt almost exclusively with one major issue, such as financing the budget, in which one country's failure automatically causes another's loss. That is understandable. Not only are individual issues complicated enough in their own right, technically and politically, they also easily occupy the two days which are allocated to Council meetings. However, given the paucity of results from an immense expenditure of time, effort and political capital by heads of government at a succession of Council meetings, one must ask if it would not be wiser to aim to solve more than one issue at a time so that the "losers" in one area of policy are in a position to be "winners" in another. If France or Denmark were to be the location of a new Community programme in high technology, for example in the field of energy research, might it then be possible to reach a compromise on the question of Britain's budgetary contributions?

The Council would have less time to deal with the problems it is currently tackling if additional ones were to be considered as high priorities. But if these additional issues were to make possible a more balanced outcome to Council negotiations, in which no country is required to make a major concession in return for nothing at all, this is surely an approach which ought to be tried.

It is also essential for the development of public support for the Community that its leaders should devote more visible attention to issues other than the budget and agricultural reform. The development of a common foreign policy, vital though it is, is not enough. A common industrial policy is also needed which tackles the dire problems of industrial adjustment and increasing competition in high technology sectors from the Americans and the Japanese.

This, in turn, could help once again to inspire support for the Community from those on the left who, while not ideologically opposed to the Community itself, have become disaffected by its failure to be more closely attuned to their perspectives and ideals.

That leads to the second reason for the Council's disappointing record. It is that the major issues with which it has dealt have tended to be understandable reasons, to touch the vital interests of all countries in the Community. All progress has therefore been held hostage to the pace of the slowest member state. Yet there are tasks for the Community, such as cooperation in the development of high technology industrial products, in which progress can be made without the assent and participation of all member states.

That is another reason why the European Council needs to pursue an industrial policy

as a high priority. While the principle of equality between the member states must be maintained, those which wish to forge ahead in the construction of the Community cannot indefinitely have their hopes and ambitions frustrated by others whose visions of Europe or concepts of sovereignty are wholly unable to accommodate such progress.

That leads to the third major obstacle to progress. It is the legacy of hostility which has characterized Britain's bargaining tactics in recent years, coupled with the "contingent lack" of interest in major European initiatives except in foreign policy and the removal of some barriers to trade between the member states.

As I learnt at Strasbourg the week before last, the other members of the Community were certainly not prepared to reach agreement with Britain on matters primarily affecting us, at a meeting under British chairmanship because of the way they had been treated at the 1979 Dublin summit and during other budget and CAP discussions.

We could have achieved so much more for ourselves and for the Community as a whole, had we shown whole-



Mrs Thatcher (with the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, Madame Flesch) at the London summit: there was never any chance of cohesiveness to Britain.

hearted interest in its development and welfare. For example, a strong British lead in creating a more effective common energy policy, including more generous arrangements for the preferential supply of North Sea oil to our Community partners at times of temporary shortages, would greatly increase their good will towards us in negotiations as well as being in our own economic interest.

The same is true for Britain's membership of the European Monetary System, which is politically and economically a priority of the greatest importance. Yet at last week's European Council a British government again failed to understand this logic, although our chairman-ship of the meeting gave us a unique opportunity to take initiatives of this kind.

The disappointing history of the European Council is not a sign that its importance has been overestimated, or that it should be downgraded. On the contrary, it is the major potential driving force of European integration. That is why it must be given the wherewithal to play the role which since its inception history has assigned it.

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This week a Labour MP will try to introduce a Bill to allow the eldest child of the sovereign to accede to the throne irrespective of sex. Bel Mooney considers the implications.

Nothing succeeds like succession

There is an eighteenth century print which shows two midwives bustling into the elegant drawing-room where a father-to-be is waiting. "C'est un fils, Monsieur!" is the happy cry, and Monsieur is throwing up his arms with joy — which is a little strange since the babe displayed cannot be less than three months old. The son and heir: *Ecco Puer*. This happy continues in maternity wards up and down the land, a boy, they say, ensuring continuity. Most families can indulge their patrilateral longings in private; land and title complicate the issue; but when we are forced to consider the succession to the British throne, we find ourselves, not surprisingly, knee-deep in statist prejudice.

Certainly that is the view of the Member for Nottingham West, Michael English is proposing a Private Member's Bill which will seek to bring our law of succession into line with that of Sweden, where, since 1979, the right of accession to the throne has passed to the eldest child, irrespective of sex. Strictly speaking the term primogeniture should imply just that — the right of the firstborn, just as ultimogeniture used sometimes to favour the youngest child. But in practice this system of inheritance gave land and title to the primogenita — the firstborn male.

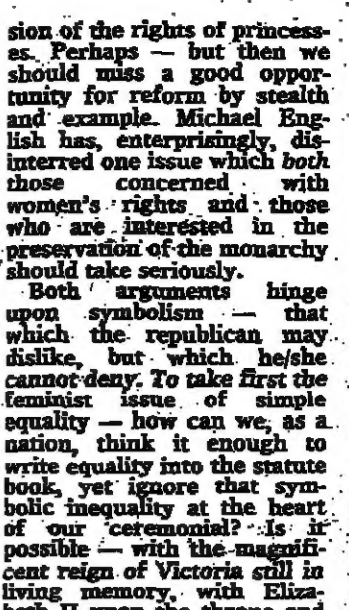
Needless to say, Michael English is not unaware of a certain impending happy event. He has timed his onslaught to coincide with the pregnancy of the Princess of Wales, saying that he believes in equality of the sexes and that, despite the many equalities that exist, this one is the hardest to ensure. The right of Prince Charles's firstborn to the throne, whatever its sex, and we will create a better climate in which to further the general cause of women.

Why should it be the hardest to change? Surely, if the Princess of Wales were to produce three or four daughters, all as charming as herself, few would publicly bewail the lack of a son. But the old common law of primogeniture is not about personalities. It throbs deep in the feudal memory of the nation — when decreeing that lands and titles must pass to the eldest son simplified matters, prevented the great estates from being broken up, and ensured that the noble who they were dealing with.

Political expediency then — but more. The assumption of Demosthenes ("One thing is admitted, that males and the issue of males have the first title to inheritance...") is chosen in the *Leger Saxonum*: "On the death of the father or mother the inheritance goes to the son, not the daughter." Under Saxon Law no woman could ever inherit (which is why the crown of Great Britain and Hanover became separated when Victoria became Queen). By the late Middle Ages we sense a need to justify: "Because women lose the name of their ancestor, and by marriage usually transferred to another family they participate seldom in heirship with males." It is left to John Knox to put it plainly: "The holy ghost doth manifestly say: I suffer not that women usurp authority over men."

Yet though the monstrous regiment of misogynists have much to say on the matter, I turn to feminist authorities (de Beauvoir, Greer, Rowbotham, et al) in vain. They would probably argue that the issue is peripheral — that we should do better to agitate for the abolition of the monarchy, than for an extension of its rights of princesses. Perhaps, but then we should miss a good opportunity for reform by stealth and example. Michael English has, enterprisingly, disinterred one issue which both women's rights and those who are interested in the preservation of the monarchy should take seriously.

Both arguments — hinge upon symbolism — that which the republican may dislike, but which he/she cannot deny. To take first the feminist issue of simple equality — how can we, as a nation, think it enough to write equality into the statute book, yet ignore that symbolic inequality at the heart of our ceremonial? — is it possible — with the magnificent reign of Victoria still in living memory, with Elizabeth II upon the throne and with a popular young Prince of Wales to boot — that we can still acquiesce in the nonsense that would set that baby aside in favour of a subsequent child, if she is a girl and he a boy? Imagine if Prince Charles were to have three daughters, then, after a long gap, a son. Is it just that the eldest girl should be brought up as heir to the throne — only to be told one day, "Charles is a boy — this is what we have been waiting for — sorry, Your Royal Highness, you just won't do?" Michael English argues that to change that would reverberate right through our "mask" of aristocracy — and I think he is right.



Lord Harcourt: Covent Garden instead of the Palace

Those who fear the rule of women but love the monarchy should reconsider their prejudice

As for the diehard patriots — well, I suspect that with one woman reigning and another ruling, with Mrs. Williams waiting, and with the terrible possibility that the Prince of Wales might produce a primogenita — a little epidemic of that common disease (known specially to affect older men) called gynaeceotrophobia could sweep the clubs. But those who fear the rule of women yet love the monarchy should reconsider their prejudice.

Why give ammunition to those who say that the institution is out of date? We have seen thrones topple; we have witnessed the rise of democracy with Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Franco, Nasser, Sukarno as just a few shining examples; the presidency was diminished forever after Watergate.

Republicans may be right to call our monarchy anachronistic; what matters is that most people would prefer it to any other system. Yet the health of the monarchy can be judged by its ability to shift, imperceptibly with the time, to "walkabout" symbolically necessary as the golden coach.

It would suit the republican's purpose well if British conservatism were to defeat Mr. English's Bill. Then the finger of derision could point to the Palace and the tumbling wheels well oiled — no more proof needed that the institution has outlived itself. It is an interesting thought, feminists (pinkies) force with monarchists (blues) to demand the commonsense equal rights for the Queen's grandchildren that we should all expect for our own.

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Lord Harcourt: Covent Garden instead of the Palace

He who would now be King

If succession of the oldest child regardless of gender were applied retrospectively to our monarchy, we should now be ruled by King George VI — George Harwood, that is.

The Queen would be Queen Patricia, not Bambi, I think. The Prince of Wales would be a 31-year-old Prince David. And Covent Garden and the opera houses and festivals of the United Kingdom would be basking in golden royal patronage. Our present Prince of Wales would be The Hon. Charles Mountbatten, son of Admiral and Lady Elizabeth Mountbatten.

Before King George VI, the monarch had been ruled by Queen Mary II, The Princess Royal, the eldest child of George V. If Parliament had passed the appropriate Bill (improbable), her husband would have been the Prince Charles Henry.

But if we are indulging in rewriting history, why should we stop there? We should go back to clever Vicky, the previous Princess Royal, Victoria and Albert's eldest child. Would she have been allowed to marry her gentle Fritz and become Empress of Prussia as well as Queen of England?

Philip Howard

Socially Distinguished People

The membership of the Social Democratic Party is predominantly young, male and middle-class with an almost total commitment to the European Community and a strong desire to curb the power of trade unions. These are among the clearest findings of a detailed survey by Opinion Research Ltd for London Weekend Television's *Weekend World*, the details of which have been made exclusively available to *The Times*.

Nearly 10,000 questionnaires were sent to SDP members in 22 area parties spread across the country. The 5,568 replies (representing about an eighth of the total party membership) provide the first real insight into who has joined the SDP, and why. Of those who replied, two-thirds were male. More than half (57 per cent) were under 45, with the largest concentration coming in the 25-to-34 age group.

The majority (57 per cent) were in professional and managerial occupations, compared with only 16 per cent in the population as a whole. Only 7 per cent were in working-class jobs, compared with 53 per cent in the country at large. Those in lower-middle-class clerical and sales occupations were also poorly represented, providing only 10 per cent of the SDP membership, against 22 per cent of the total population.

Even allowing for a certain distortion resulting from the greater readiness of the

Attitudes of SDP members on major policy issues		
	In favour	Against
Withdrawal from the European Communities	7	92
Incomes policy	89	9
Government investment aid for certain industries	79	19
Unilateral disarmament	22	78
Legislation putting employees in the board room	73	26
Curbing trade-union immunities	72	24
Leaving nationalized/private industry frontier where it is now	72	26
Leaving private schools as they are	28	72
Assemblies in English regions	31	67
Outlawing the closed shop	67	31
Reducing tax relief on mortgage-interest payments	32	64
National assemblies in Scotland and Wales	58	41
Wealth tax	93	34
Raising tax to pay for higher public spending	55	41

middle class to fill in and return questionnaires, these figures show a staggering social bias in the SDP's membership. Admittedly, the party is likely to attract more working-class members as it moves from Guardian advertisements and membership by credit card to more orthodox methods of recruiting. But as yet it looks a distinctly middle-class club.

More than two-thirds of those who responded to the *Weekend World* questionnaire (67 per cent) had never belonged to a political party before. Of those who had, the majority (15 per cent of all respondents) had been in the Labour Party. Altogether, a third had voted Labour in the last election, a third Liberal, and a quarter Conservative.

When asked to express in their own words why they had joined the SDP, the most popular reason (cited by 22 per cent) was because of the "whispering voice of conscience" which urged them to join the party's members. Their views are clearest on Britain's membership of the EEC and on the introduction of an incomes policy, on both of which they return an overwhelming vote of confidence. There is also a clear majority (60 per cent) for such a policy to be statutory, with sanctions against those who break it.

On the economy in general, SDP members appear to have a broadly Keynesian line, supporting expansion on a scale sufficient to bring about a substantial fall in unemployment. More than

three quarters of those who replied to the questionnaire supported the idea of government investment in certain industries.

Given the strong middle-class bias, it is not surprising that a clear majority supported the idea, floated in an SDP discussion paper on housing, of reducing tax relief on mortgage interest payments. Rather more unexpected, however, is the fact that only 28 per cent of SDP supporters would leave private schools as they are (of the rest, 54 per cent, would remove their tax advantages, while 18 per cent would integrate them in the state system). The strength of support for a wealth tax is also surprising.

The SDP leadership will be required to find a clear majority (76 per cent) of party members agree with them on the subject of defence and disarmament. However, there may be some embarrassment about the strength of feeling against the unions revealed in the answers to the *Weekend World* questionnaire. The call for an end to trade union immunities and for the outlawing of the closed shop is one of the clearest demands of those SDP members questioned. It will be difficult to ignore and could well present the Gang of Four with a major problem as they seek to organize a broad-based labour movement that there is not an anti-union party.

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Ian Bradley

Why Vincent Hanna is happy about Crosby

All sorts of things will not be the same again after Crosby, and one of them is Vincent Hanna, the BBC's late-night man on the spot. When I spoke to him yesterday, Hanna was almost as jubilant as Shirley Williams herself. The reason was the BBC's new election results prediction system which, it can now be told, came uncannily close last Thursday night to predicting not just the overall result, but the actual number of votes cast.

At Warrington, and again at Croydon, the Beeb, with Nuffield statistician Clive Payne, honed a system which works like this. First you need to find eight polling stations whose catchment areas reflect accurately the social and political make-up of the constituency.

Then they came up with a grading of all polling stations from the most Tory to the least. Taking the top and bottom stations, they then added six others spread at random between them on this "Tory" dimension and which covered the constituency social make-up. On the day of voting they interviewed every fifth voter as he or she came out of the station, paying particular attention to those who said they had switched their vote since last time. These figures were then amended in accordance with the relative sizes of the electorate (which in Crosby had grown by 2.2 per cent) and according to turnout (6.6 per cent lower last

week than at the General Election).

Hanna refused to look at the computer's final prediction in case he was tempted to use it on air but here are the figures, so you can see just how hard he is kicking himself:

BBC predictions	Actual votes
Lab 22,228	22,228
Lab 22,228	22,228
Lab 22,228	22,228
Lab 22,228	22,228
Lab 22,228	22,228

In other words, in an electorate of 57,297, the system got the majority wrong by just 150 votes.

Olympian task

SOPHOCLES, tragedian; b. Colonus Hippus, 497-95 BC, d. 406 BC, Sicily, s. of Sophilos, armour manufacturer, educ. Lamprus and Aeschylus; first prize Great Dionysia (18 times); led paeon to celebrate victory at Salamis, 480; president, foreign office tax board, 443; elected general, 440 (served under Pericles); elected priest, 421; member, Adv Comm Syracuse defeat fund, 413; publication, include: *Antigone*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Electra*, *recreations*: lyre playing, wrestling; club: *Thiasos ton Mouson*.

I am sure it won't read like that but Dr Michael Osborne, senior lecturer in ancient history at the University of Lancaster, is compiling a *Who was Who in Athens*. It strikes me as exactly the sort of thing he should be doing, especially as he will be attempting to list all known Athenians, famous and obscure alike.

It will be three to four years before *Times* readers can get their educated hands on the book but that's no time at all, of course, to a classicist.

THE TIMES DIARY



least I think it is a good idea: apparently publishers are not so minded, doubting that there will be enough material. "In fact," says Heath-Stubbs, "there is so much that a lot will have to be left out."

Three things have surprised him so far. The first is how much our early poets wrote about science. "I'm starting in medieval times and all the major names are there: Chaucer, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Spenser, Donne, Dryden, Pope, Keats, Wordsworth. And Milton kept on writing about science than Donne did, contrary

to what most people think. He used the first English poem to mention the Copernican system."

Second, and also contrary to popular opinion, "the Renaissance was not a time when people — poets anyway — were into science. Astrology — yes; alchemy and magic — yes. These were not medieval concerns to anyone near the same extent as in the Renaissance." So Heath-Stubbs will include astro-astrology and anti-alchemy verse of this period rather than science poetry as such.

Third, and perhaps most surprising of all, many of the big twentieth century names will be largely absent from the anthology. Memo to any publisher who shares my enthusiasm: Heath-Stubbs (who is editing the book) is an American professor who would love to hear from you.

At 120, there are no longer enough offices to house all the Parliament's various committees. The overcrowding has now reached a stage where about 30 MPs — a quarter of the membership — no longer have an office to call their own.

Knesset crush

The Rothschilds of Britain are being summoned to the aid of a hard-pressed Israeli democracy. The Speaker of the Israeli Parliament, Menahem Savidor, has appealed to the British branch of the family, who donated the present Knesset building in Jerusalem, to put up extra funds for another block nearby. Apparently, the squat square Knesset edifice, which was opened some 15 years ago, no longer meets the needs of parliamentarians.

Although the number of Knesset members has remained constant

Related?

Over the years I have come in the view that more and more of our behaviour is influenced by genes. Something that Evelyn Reynolds of Suffolk has sent me shows that the brain-like cunning of a certain tennis star owes quite a bit to his ancestors. Here is an



John McKenrot calling on Napoleon

extract from page 87 of Jean Duhamel's *The Fifty Days — Napoleon in England*: "At the beginning of 1815, one McKenrot, a Frenchman, had been used for defamation in the King's Bench Division by Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, commanding the West Indies Squadron. McKenrot was of German extraction, born in London, where he studied law. He was of sullen disposition, extensible, and had a stormy career. Eventually he obtained a minor judicial appointment in Tortola, an island in the Lesser Antilles. He saw to it that he did not have a quiet life there. He had hardly arrived before, wishing to draw attention to himself, he picked a quarrel with Admiral Cochrane, whom he accused of incompetence, even cowardice, for not attacking a French squadron weaker than his own. This squadron was commanded by Admiral Villeneuve, accompanied by Jerome Bonaparte, and cruising in the same waters. Sir Alexander Cochrane, not prepared to have his character

Blind proposal

The death of Lotte Lenya, over the week-end deprives us of the last hopes of a first-hand account of the turbulent partnership between Bertolt Brecht and her husband, Kurt Weill. Lenya began writing her story shortly after Weill's death in 1950, but no publisher was interested at the time and she abandoned the project. However, she had a store of anecdotes about the two men with which she loved to entertain anyone who would listen.

My favourite is the account of how this effervescent Austrian actress came to marry the introverted, studious composer. "One Sunday afternoon I took him on a boat on the lake. He was very near-sighted and wore thick, thick glasses. I did nothing and hit his spectacles which fell into the lake. That was the afternoon he proposed marriage. I said later on: 'Kurt, would you have married me with your glasses on?' He peered at me, then said: '... I think so...'"

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Peter Watson

Quiz answers

- The Jobs Express train left Newcastle last Monday for a five-day journey to London, picking up 300 unemployed youngsters, job trainees and students on the way.
- Helsham rose from the Woolpack to challenge Lord Longford's suggestion that the Home Secretary had been elected by the judiciary.
- The legalization of brothels in certain areas is to be considered.
- The Transport Minister is conducting a Beeching-type inquiry into British Rail.
- Mr Jocelyn Stevens was sacked as chairman and managing director of Express Newspapers.
- The trainee, John Edwards, bought back his sheepchaser, Good Prospect, from the Prince of Wales.
- Mobile Oil raised its offer for Marathon Oil last Thursday.
- A British contingent of about 100 men will join the proposed peacekeeping force in Sinai next month.
- The Government announced its decision to close the Royal Navy dockyard at Gibraltar.
- Mr Barry East became an involuntary chat show host on Radio Harry when a phone conversation with his son was interrupted.
- The number of registered members in the EEC will reach 10 million by the end of this year, according to the EEC Statistical Office.
- A reshuffle of shadow cabinet members took place last week.
- The Government are giving British Rail an extra £110m to compensate for the drop in rail traffic caused by the recession.
- British Telecom are to order 500m worth of electronic telephone exchange equipment.
- Several men are facing charges of smuggling tons of cannabis.

Peter Watson



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THE TALKING STARTS

If the Russians were devilishly clever they would turn up at today's opening of the Geneva talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces in Europe saying they were ready to sign the "zero option" on the spot and go home tomorrow. The Americans could hardly refuse, since that is just what they have offered. The result would be that Nato could not deploy any of the new weapons on which it decided in 1979. The Russians would have to dismantle their SS-20s, SS-4s and SS-5s, but they could move forward a new generation of shorter range missiles to perform nearly the same function. The West could make up for some but not all of its lost capacity with other systems.

In fact of course, things do not happen like that. The negotiations will be long and arduous. But the fantasy is worth spinning to make the point that the opening American offer is not quite such a blatant attempt to tilt the military balance as the Russians and some nuclear disarmers claim. It is more in the nature of a slightly risky play designed to put the Russians on the spot and take the wind out of the sails of the protest movement. Strictly speaking it makes nonsense of Nato's claim that the weapons are vital links in the chain of flexible response, or that it is essential to have land-based missiles in Europe capable of hitting Soviet soil

in order to disabuse the Soviet Union of any idea that it could fight a war in central Europe and remain unscathed.

Of course, there is a respectable argument to fall back on, which is that the Nato weapons were never militarily necessary anyway, that they were a political response to European unease about the American commitment, but Nato has committed itself too firmly to the argument of military need to drop it without inconsistency. The fact that Mr Reagan nevertheless embraced the "zero option" shows how large a part politics will play in the negotiations, and rightly so, for the initial significance of the talks is that the two super powers are now once again sitting together trying to put limits on the arms race. They have not done this since the Salt II treaty was signed in June, 1979. They would not be doing it now if it had not been for pressure from western Europe and especially from Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor. It was he who talked Mr Brezhnev out of his initial reaction to the Nato decision of 1979, which was that the basis for negotiation had been destroyed. It was also largely he, with much European support, who talked Mr Reagan out of his belief that there was little point in discussing arms control until America was

stronger and until the Soviet Union had changed its behaviour.

Obviously the rising ferment of protest in Europe was an important factor. It will be less active and less able to mobilize big crowds now that the talks are beginning, but it will remain in being, watching Geneva for results. This is no bad thing provided the right lesson is drawn, which is that protest was brought to its latest peak of influence not just by fear of nuclear weapons but by a fundamental loss of confidence in Washington and in Nato leadership as a whole, caused to a great extent by vacillations in American policy over many years, by the flawed thinking with which Mr Reagan's administration entered office, and by the confusion of its voices afterwards.

Mr Reagan started from assumptions that east-west diplomacy had to wait for the military strengthening of America, and that the western alliance could be pulled together on this basis. Both assumptions turned out to be wrong. In the nuclear age the world cannot do without continuous attempts by the super powers to bring their rivalry under some degree of control. This is what Mr Reagan has implicitly admitted by sending his negotiators to Geneva. It should help to heal wounds in the alliance as well as reviving hopes that the arms race can be capped.

A CHANCE TO OUTFLANK MR PAISLEY

Politics and security are interlocked in Ulster; events under either heading have repercussions under both. This theorem is commonly invoked to set limits to measures that can prudently be taken against the IRA, in recognition of the fact that coercive severity may drive an equivocal nationalist minority in Ulster into the arms of the IRA and may forfeit necessary cooperation with the authorities in the Republic.

That is a standing constraint on government in Ulster and should never be lost sight of. But it is not the only application of the theorem. There is now a different priority. The Government is in danger of so far losing the confidence of unionists that the situation may pass from its control. To put it bluntly — and they put it bluntly — unionists are coming to believe that the Government lacks the will to protect them against republican violence, and that there is an intention or a hope somehow or other to manoeuvre them out of the kingdom.

This requires a reordering of policy. It calls for convincing evidence of a determination to hunt and convict terrorists, and it calls for encouragement of constitutional unionism to assert itself against Mr Paisley's flirtation with rebellion. The first requirement reinforces the second and is indispensable to it.

The prospect for both is quite good. The reinforcement of the army and placing

the RUC on emergency footing signified the right intention. The harsher denunciation of IRA crimes by Catholic clergy, shorn at last of qualification, may make that still large part of the Catholic community which practises its religion in a less reliable environment for gunmen. Police moves against suspects in the past few days are leading to a number of charges being brought.

A continuation of this effort is essential for the rehabilitation of constitutional unionism, which ought to be the Northern Ireland ministers' immediate political priority. The opportunity is there. Moves are afoot to strengthen the leadership of moderate unionism, which shows a new readiness to confront Mr Paisley now that he has put himself in a vulnerable position. No Ulsterman who values the union and is governed by reason can follow Mr Paisley in vilification of the elected parliament and leadership of the nation and in his show of usurpation of the civil power. If that is conduct for loyalists what is there for rebels to do? And in so far as the grounds for unionists to suspect the intentions of the British political establishment they are not found in any plan for disengagement, but in a loss of sympathy, a weakening of solidarity. That source of danger to the union is not checked but magnified by Paisleyism.

It has too often been the deliberate or accidental consequence of Westminster's

intervention in Ulster to break the political organization of the unionists. It is high time ministers concerned themselves with its reestablishment in a responsible form. The most helpful thing they could do to that end is ensure that the first and early fruits of the newly dignified apparatus for Anglo-Irish cooperation are a further improvement in security: in the form either of extradition from the Republic, or of an inter-jurisdictional procedure for questioning suspected terrorists, or means of uninterrupted hot pursuit across the border. Dr Fitzgerald, who takes a long and genuinely consensual view of Irish unity, might be found willing to cooperate in that priority.

The least helpful thing ministers could do to the same end, in the present state of unionist agitation, is to start once more cajoling the politicians into the kind of insinuation that they can enter only at peril of losing their constituents to others who will stand apart denouncing it. "Solutionism" should be forsworn for the time being. (And if anyone needs a refresher course in the intractability of Ulster's constitutional problem he may read a symposium from Chatham House published today, in which experience for the most part triumphs over hope.) There is however some scope for developing province-wide economic cooperation and consultation, and ministers should restrict their institutional ambition to that for the time being.

It would equalize democratic values within the European Parliament, although small minorities would still have to be represented, as Scotland and Wales are at Westminster, and Westminster would still keep its three nominated MEPs.

Nevertheless, both friends and foes of PR, at least in Britain, ought to look twice and then look again at any seductively dressed-up proposals for a list system. Strasbourg itself has already jibbed at some abuses. Take the examples from many of the President Mitterrand's name stood at the top of the French Socialist list in the 1979 European election although he had no serious intention of taking a seat at Strasbourg; he was there merely to attract votes. Georges Spénale, one of the ablest Socialists in the European Parliament — and its former president — had his name arbitrarily deleted from the party list because he had given offence to the party leadership.

M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, headed his party's European list, attended for a year, and then proposed that all sitting Gaullist members should resign en bloc and be replaced by the reserves on the party list. Nor did France alone in offending the Parliament's sense of *amour propre*. After the last election in the Irish Republic there were protests that the Strasbourg replacements had never been presented to electors in the PR party lists of 1979, and that they were therefore no more than nominees of a party caucus.

All in all, though the list system is well established in several Community countries, it everlastingly proclaims the democratic virtues of PR and heap scorn on Britain's first-past-the-post, in practice it too easily becomes an abused tool in the hands of party leaders and party managers. We might also say the list system can be the quango to cap all quangos, and even British advocates of PR should examine it with due suspicion. What goes now for European elections may soon go for domestic elections.

David Wood

A side door move towards British PR

For three days this week, starting on Wednesday, some leading members of the European Parliament will meet at Lancaster House to prepare proposals that may turn out to be the thin end of the wedge for introducing proportional representation in England, Scotland and Wales. Leaders of the two main parties at Westminster will not fall in love with the idea at first sight, but surprisingly the Conservative European Democratic Group has given its blessing to the particular form of PR on which Strasbourg opinion is consolidating for the next direct elections to the European Parliament in summer 1984.

The Treaty of Rome ordains that the European Parliament should be elected by a uniform procedure. For June 1979, when the first direct elections took place, there was no hope of or time for achieving uniformity, and every member state of the (then) Nine was allowed to follow its electoral habit. The pure principle of parliamentary democracy was consequently flawed in many important ways, not only because Britain clung to its first-past-the-post method, whereas everywhere else (except in Danish Greenland) some form of PR was adopted.

Among other discrepancies there was no uniformity on entitlement to vote, voting age, equality of votes, minimum age of candidates, financing of parties, nomination of candidates, or the role of established parties. For each member state it was a question of doing what came

naturally, or what protected vested political interests. Most of the obvious discrepancies have been sorted out by M. Jean Seidinger, the pathfinder of the political affairs committee whose report will be considered in London this week and almost certainly adopted in its essentials. To root out the principal flaws the committee proposes a compromise between the British first-past-the-post election and the Continental list system that established British parties have long resented.

The committee's model is the West German electoral system which combines plurality voting in single constituencies, where a candidate with most votes immediately wins, and PR on the basis of declared national or regional lists. The Seidinger report suggests that half the MEPs should be elected by each method, and that each member state should determine its own single constituency and regional boundaries. In practice, the number of first-past-the-post seats gained by a party would be deducted from its PR list entitlement though, unlike in West Germany, each elector would cast only one vote. Where a seat fell vacant there would be no by-election, as would now happen in Britain; the next name would be taken from the original party list or the seat would be filled "by the substitute for the elected representative" (whatever that may mean).

Clearly some merit may be fairly claimed for such an ingenious hybrid that has proved its efficiency and simplicity in West Germany. It would preserve direct constituency representation of the British kind, although the European constituencies would have to be made even larger than they already are, in geographical as well as in numerical terms, to allow for the PR factor. It would correct the distortions that in June 1979 gave Conservatives 60 seats in England, Scotland and Wales, Labour 17, the Scottish National Party one, and the Liberals none.

Police and local community relations

From the Chairman, the Greater London Tory Reform Group

Sir, Lord Scarman's report and recommendations emphasise once more the concern felt by many people about the degree of mistrust between the police and local communities in inner cities. It seems to us to be an urgent priority for the Home Secretary to change the police complaints procedures so that it can be seen that complaints are investigated impartially and independently, thereby encouraging confidence in the system. Such confidence will be further encouraged when ways are found to recruit larger numbers of police from the ethnic minorities, and deep consideration should be given to the approach to such a campaign. The Home Secretary should not be dissuaded from this course by the often-stated problems.

In addition, we welcome Lord Scarman's recommendations that a statutory duty should be imposed on police authorities and chief officers of police to establish consultative committees. If the present arrangements for the Metropolitan Police are to be retained, then this is even more important in London. The composition of such committees requires careful attention, however.

We note that Mr Whitelaw has stated that the Government will take action promptly on these and other points, but we urge the Home Secretary and the Government to give special consideration to Lord Scarman's recommendations to the effects of social deprivation, unemployment, and significant factors in the summer riots.

In his report Lord Scarman deals with the question of education of two groups: of the police trainees and of the youngsters in deprived urban areas. Until greater attention is paid to both, the underlying causes of friction will not disappear.

Yours faithfully,
JAY GOUGH, Chairman,
Greater London Tory Reform Group,
2 Polaris Street, W1,
November 27.

From Mr Douglas Dwyer

Sir, I think too many people, including my fellow West Indians, focus too much attention on problems between particularly our youth and the police, and giving the belief that if the confrontation problem with all its passions were solved all would be well. The problems with police, youth and riots, and so on, are mere expressions of a deeper dissatisfaction in our people about total human justice and the chance to flower out by virtue of our innate talents, without the constant frustrations we experience.

Lord Scarman's report is an excellent one, and this is especially so given what he was asked to do. If nothing else it should alert most people here to

take us more seriously in a constructive sense. If the total problem seen from our point of view is honestly faced up to, and if there should be less dragging of feet in the elimination of the frustrations we are forever experiencing, we would be far more effective in heading off the young from the restiveness and unproductive ends they are often driven to follow. West Indians are anxious to make their full contribution to every facet of life here, but we do need far more encouragement than we have been getting so far.

For a start I think Brixton ought to have a theatre comparable to that at Hammersmith or the West End to allow latent talents there to flower out in a way that will not only surprise but will please by the sparkle that would attract world attention. Such things, and more, would serve a far more useful purpose than such unworthy enterprise as substitute for some people are working tooth and nail to ship us out and away to ensure "racial purity", whatever that means.

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS DWYER,
1 Cromwell Crescent, SW5,
November 26.

From Mr D. Clarke

Sir, You quote (report, November 27) a Moss-side commentator as saying that those who want to read the Scarman Report will not be able to afford it, at £8 a copy. May I second that emotion?

As a sometime and would-be police journalist, I know that however munificent the media coverage of such a report seems to be, a great many nuances are necessarily lost. There is no room for leading the whole thing, and it is foolish and counterproductive of the Government to price this paperback at least twice too high. Certainly I, at least, simply cannot afford it.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD CLARKE,
28 Ansbury Road,
Tottenham, N16,
Middlesex,
November 27.

From Mr Tom Hastie

Sir, Has Lord Scarman really considered the implications of his report at the national level? Are we now to understand that if people have what they consider to be a legitimate grievance and proceed to riot, burn and attack the police as a political gesture, then their grievances will be remedied?

Politicians constantly assert that they will never give in to violence. Have they now changed their minds? If that is the case, then the deprived and unemployed of the Midlands, Newcastle, Glasgow and South Wales know what to do.

Yours faithfully,
TOM HASTIE,
74 Monmouth Road,
Battersea, SW11,
November 26.

Wage-inflation tax

From Dr D. R. J. Laming

Sir, The arguments which you publish today (November 26) from Professor Richard Layard are just too simple. The effect of his proposed tax on wage bargaining would not be quite what he supposes.

Taking into account the human element in wage negotiations, it is to be expected that (i) the government-announced norm will become the minimum; (ii) union wage negotiators will point out that since a company does not incur any net liability to Layard tax until it grants a wage increase exceeding the going rate, it can certainly, so far as that tax is concerned, afford to pay that rate of increase; and (iii) certain unions will negotiate on the basis that their industries cannot be allowed to go bankrupt and any excessive liability to Layard tax will be financed by government subvention.

I can see two outcomes of Professor Layard's suggestion:

The Bulldog's grip

From Colonel James Capadose

Sir, The wheel-clamp (report, November 19) is the perfect deterrent for illegal parkers, as I learnt the hard way a year or two ago in Algiers. After making my way by the back door to the police station, I had to queue at the main post office to pay the fine and then return to the police with the receipt. Thinking that, after all this, I was free to go, I hurried back to the car by the back door. There was, however, a long wait for the traffic patrol to arrive to unlock the "sabat" as they rather delightfully called it.

What a costly waste of time! I shall never park in the wrong place there again. A regulated parking system, in which all the benefits and safety of all road users, those who abuse it are merely saving themselves time and trouble at the expense of others.

The Automobile Association, according to *The Times* last week, objects to the use of this highly effective device; does anybody else?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CAPADOSE,
Kettle Cottage,
Long Mill Lane,
St Mary's Plain,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

The Constitution of Northern Ireland, mentioned in the article, is a joint study in public policy from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, the Policy Studies Institute, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, published by Heinemann at £15.

first, a slightly narrower spread of wage increases and, second, a substantial number of additional (and non-productive) posts in the inland Revenue to monitor the scheme. But, by acknowledging that companies act in some effective collusion over the fixing of wage rates, it is easy to see that there will be no net restraint on the average rate of wage increases.

If Professor Layard had really meant his scheme to bite, he should have proposed that the inflation tax be attached to the excess wages, not to the company conceding them. A rate of tax greater than 100 per cent on the excess of wage rises above a government-announced norm would surely have some dramatic effect. However, whether why Professor Layard did not propose that idea?

Yours faithfully,
D. R. J. LAMING,
The Psychological Laboratory,
Downing Street,
Cambridge,
November 26.

When films are cut

From Mr Richard Need

Sir, The defence cuts are threatening another institution whose possible demise should not go unnoticed: the Naval Film Branch. For decades this department, working closely with the British "documentary" film industry and as hard taskmasters of it, has produced training films of a standard generally regarded as unsurpassed anywhere.

Less important evidence of this in the form of prizes, trophies and accolades from many countries, lies in glass cases in the Old Admiralty Building; more important evidence is screened every day in many languages. Outside the service, Royal Navy films (they are not all on military subjects) earn their keep throughout the world in industry, commerce, schools and hospitals, producing a regular income to the Treasury as a result.

While declaring my interest as just one of many film-makers who have worked with the Royal Navy over the years, it is not in the least self-interest that I write. It seems that once again, a quietly effective part of our national asset, respected for its total freedom from any form of political propaganda, is to go because somebody somewhere has to be seen to be making cuts. There are, however, a number of funds this department could plainly be self-supporting, an idea which should appeal to any government.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD NEED,
49 Bonner Hill Road,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey,
November 25.

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THE ARTS

Television
Unclean thoughts

Everyman did not go quite as far as investigating the aura of shame surrounding menstruation as to call Saints Jerome and Ambrose male chauvinist pigs, but the epithet hung in the air. St Jerome expressed his view that there was "nothing as unclean as a woman in her periods" and St Ambrose his "that Adam was led to sin by Eve", the latter hardly original as it were. However, sixteen centuries later there is no doubt that both would have been given the same.

Before and after Jerome and Ambrose, the Church was pretty hard on women, in fact it was Tertullian, who referred to women as "The Devil's Gateway", the title of last night's BBC programme. I am not sure of the context but Tertullian was very much a married man and until he became a heretic himself, was a diligent hunter of heresy and I thought it just possible that he was being censorious about a particular sect, the Montanists. Be that as it may, he should have been more unidentifying. The idea that women's menstruating bodies were unacceptable to God as well as man was not peculiar to the Christian religion. Hindu and Moslems both overlaid this natural process with strictures and, consequently, guilt. Such guilt persists and producer Jenny Morgan carried out interviews with women of various creeds and, possibly, none, which supported this.

I thought it unfortunate that she did not manage to find anyone whose parents had been up to it and for whom the initial event had not been traumatic. Without taking anything away from her for an interesting idea, I thought the tone just a bit strident and the historical reflections seemed to pause about the seventeenth century. Surely in some part of the world, at least, it is not such a baffling happening now?

Anglia's *The Medicine Men*, which is being shown around the network at various times but which we saw on LWT on Saturday, is a series examining the claims of natural medicine which promises to be most rewarding and beneficial to the ignorant and sceptical.

It began by focussing on herbalism which, it appears — and there were two satisfied patients and much evidence to prove it — can offer relief especially in longstanding conditions when orthodox medicine has failed.

Principal adviser on the series is Brian Inglis, an early contributor to the view that doctors do not necessarily know everything and that alternative medicine has a role. The producer and writer of this reassuring programme was Lloyd Fraser.

Dennis Hackett

The Oresteia

Olivier

Michael Elliott once summed up classical revival as the art of awakening a sleeping dragon in its cave. From this definition, Peter Hall's long-meditated production of *The Oresteia* strikes me as a virtuoso invocation that does everything except activate rumbles in the lair.

You could make the same complaint against John Barton's Grecian cycle which the RSC staged last year. But, in spite of its length, *The Greeks* had a more modest ambition. It was a primary narrative exercise for a public who had forgotten the story. Hall's purpose is to recreate the Aeschylean tragic experience with sufficient strength to generate a communal response from the house. (At the conclusion of its five and a half hours, we are asked to stand for the exit of the Kindly Ones.)

To this daunting end, he has transformed the Olivier Theatre into a miniature Epidaurus, assembled an all-male masked company, recruited our finest theatrical translator, Tony Harrison, and followed the probably Attic procedure of imposing a continuous musical discipline on the work, with a score by Harrison Birtwistle.

From that list of credits it seems that the production marks a point of convergence for several lines of development inside the company. The architecture and mask work go back to Hall's association with Michel Saint-Denis. The musical element reflects an impulse to feed his operatic experience into the theatre of the spoken word. Tony Harrison's text is an heroic expansion of his work with Bill Bryden's team on *The Passion*: a

Theatre

An outline of grandeur

strongly rhythmic, alliterative version, as down-to-earth as a nut or an apple, and calling for the kind of northern voices he had in the now-distanced Cottesloe company.

The effect of this act of union appears in the first moments of the show. The eye takes in Jocelyn Herbert's stage: a text-book Greek design, complete with orchestra for the Chorus, flanked on each side by a parados exit, and an upstage metallic skene with three lofty towers. Sometimes opening to disclose an ekklyptema truck displaying murderous tableaux. A small window then opens at the top of the skene revealing the disgruntled Argos. Watchman. "The woman says watch, watch, I am... watching", masked though he is the speech comes over like a Stanley Holloway monologue.

That is one of the few unaccompanied passages, but it is characteristic of the ensuing friction between high culture and peasant culture. Harmony might have been achieved as sometimes indeed it is, through the mask work. Of the unattributed performances shared between a company of 16 actors, there are some — particularly the gold and scarlet Clytemnestra and the huge-eyed Cassandra whose voices transmit the sense of a supra-personal rite and whose masks visibly alter according to changing events. There are other masks that have not learnt to speak; and with them you find yourself identifying the actor and wishing he would take the thing off.

This is particularly the case with the Chorus, on whom meticulous care has clearly been spent. Making a series of spectacular entries as greybeards (in the *Agamemnon*), women (in *Choephoroi*) and Furies (in *Eumenides*) they are subject to precise operatic discipline. Their text consists of verse para-

graphs, each paragraph conforming to one emphatic rhythm and fixed tempo, whether the lines are distributed or delivered in unison.

Except at moments of extreme emotion — as where Orestes falls into a nightmare waltz with the clinging Furies (allied-visaged predators in seaweed draperies) — movement is limited to the statuesque attitudes of a frieze. And all too often the sense of the lines is muffled by the masks and blotted out by the rhythm. Instead of receiving a line of passionate meral argument, you are left with Mr Birtwistle's time-bomb ticking percussion and ominous harp chords, which merely suggest that something nasty is coming down the pipeline. When it arrives, his squealing woodwind and dislocated rhythms raise the murders to the required level of extreme formality and extreme horror. But the meaning of the horror is obscured.

The central drama, a titanic contest between blood-loyalty and the loyalties of the human bond, emerges in letters a mile high. So does the figure of Clytemnestra as the dominating presence in a community that despises women. The production articulates such ideas in scenes such as Agamemnon's mastery, contemptuous return from Troy.

There is a grand outline, but the style excludes detailed interaction and reverberation of the tragic argument. I much admire what I could catch of Mr Harrison's text, and would welcome the chance of experiencing it in humbler conditions — say at the Cottesloe.

Irving Wardle

Apollo and the Chorus of Furies in "Eumenides": operatic discipline



Swan Lake

Palace, Manchester

The most popular ballet ever made has rejoined Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's repertory in a splendid new production that will give pleasure for years. This *Swan Lake* is doubly welcome: for staying close to tradition (closer, probably, than the present Covent Garden version) and for rethinking every aspect to give it a logical point.

Credit goes to a team who have obviously worked closely and harmoniously. Peter Wright was in charge, and has acknowledged more help from Philip Prowse than a designer's responsibility entails. Galina Samsova as co-producer brings an apt Russian influence to the choreography and the style of dancing. Barry Wordsworth has upheld Tchaikovsky's share.

The only revolutionary change is a prologue, during the overture, showing Siegfried and his mother as chief mourners behind a crowned coffin. By establishing that the old king has just died, it puts the actions of the heir and the widow into focus, explaining his melancholy, her grim propriety, and the need for a dynastic marriage.

Dance

Act I becomes a surprise party to divert Siegfried. His grieving soul takes its proper music place in an enlarged *pas de trois* (but surely the ladies who try to distract him must be from the court theatre, not courtesans as the programme says?). The prospective brides are announced by ambassadors; each arrives with her retinue, allowing Act III to enjoy an alternation of national dances, given more bite in Samsova's rearrangement, and bravura solos by Wright.

Prowse offers magnificent settings for those scenes, a gothic palace as seen through Russian eyes. The ballet's most famous scene, the lakeside, becomes Rothbart's lair, a ruined castle overgrown with creepers, mysteriously dark, with water glinting in moonlight just outside the eye. The ballerina's imaginative reinterpretation of the original concept I have encountered.

I saw three performances, the company and the musicians making more of their chances each time. The orchestra, angry about an unpaid lay-off over Christmas, has consistently rejected a first-night strike.

All praise to the swan corps de ballet, especially the delightfully precise quartet of cygnets and Mandy-Jayne Richardson's ecstatic lyricism as one of the leaders. The men, proudly assertive in their new Polacca, deserve credit too, and almost all the supporting soloists, notable among them Lili Griffiths for her lithe style in a solo at the matinee, and Roland Price's Benno.

Happy the company that can present two such ballerinas as Samsova and Margaret Barbieri on successive nights. Samsova's interpretation is familiar; Barbieri has never danced this role previously in England, and rarely elsewhere, yet she made the second act duet wonderfully eloquent, the third act dangerously seductive; only her first big solo suffered from indecisive arms.

Sherilyn Kennedy made an assured, smooth, but so far not at all individual first attempt at the role, with another debutant, Carl Myers, as her amiably boyish Siegfried. David Ashmore, dazzling in his solos, and the elegant Desmond Kelly, with Samsova and Barbieri respectively, gave more tragic readings of Siegfried. Kelly, unaided, lay off over Christmas, but he played Rothbart, a dominating villain in this production; he and Alain Dubreuil, who shares the role, were both booed at the end: a real tribute.

John Percival

Opera

Alceste

Covent Garden

For Dame Janet Baker's farewell performances at Covent Garden, the Royal Opera House has done the decent thing and added Gluck's *Alceste* to the repertory. It is his revised French version, which has been well as historically important, and seldom staged anywhere these days.

The title role is a superb part for a great singing actress, such as Dame Janet has made herself during a quarter-century. *Alceste*, who offers to die in her doomed husband's place, is stage for most of the opera, the principal deity, for the rest of the act, a quantity of marvellously expressive music to sing, not only such arias as the famous "Divinités du Styx", but long artos, and accompanied recitatives as eloquent as can be imagined.

Gluck's *Alceste* is usually reckoned a soprano part, though it was adapted for a mezzo in 1861 to suit Pauline Viardot-Garcia's voice. For Dame Janet, Sir Charles Mackerras has made his own edition of Gluck's French version, transposing as little as necessary.

The Triumph of Virtue

Guildhall School

Going on opera digs to every shady corner of the repertoire is becoming a pastime whose cultish over-promotion and often unequal musical and dramatic execution is enough to discourage the most ardent seeker. But, once again, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama has justified the quest and proved the value of its particular treasure trove in a production bursting with characteristically light-hearted and confident professionalism, right down to the varied and elegant curtain calls.

This sort of professionalism is vital to the success of Alessandro Scarlatti's *The Triumph of Virtue*, a typical early eighteenth-century Italian comic opera, its plot a

web of tangled affections, its progress tiresomely uneven, and its conclusion of virtue rewarded, and honour triumphant, improbable. Christopher Newell's workshop production, and Vilem Tausky's musical direction, cunningly ensured that we were aware only in retrospect just how little had taken place in two hours.

Yards of secco recitatives sprang along neatly tailored to each stage movement, exit and entrance. And, no less satisfying than the deft integration of recitative and aria, was the entirely appropriate and finely-judged balance between and within arias of mock heroics, tender feeling and broad comedy as the volatile tempers of each of four pairs of lovers sway, waver, and are restored to equilibrium.

Particularly enjoyable were Paul Harris's generic Flaminio, ingeniously mobile and bittily witty through countless turns of phrase and voice; Linda Strachan's servant-girl, Rosina, her voice and stage presence emanating warm, mellow light; the dignified humour of Anne-Sophie von Oer's proud Leonora; and Maria Bonvicini's fiery, ringing, yet tenderly affectionate Doracina. The concerted numbers, like the duet between Leonora and Doracina with flute and oboe, and the solemn post-duet quartet — near embryonic Mozart — revealed some of Scarlatti's finest music.

While Terence Emery's sensitively lit minimal set on a tiny, oval open dais was both attractive and imaginatively used from every angle, the positioning of the small band behind it posed challenges for ensemble between singers and players that were far from being met on the first night. But this should discourage nobody from the further performances tomorrow and on Thursday.

William Mann

As a French opera, *Alceste* has room for ballet, especially in the second and final acts: Ronald Hynd has choreographed it, and only smoothed the edges by flirting with so-called Greek dance, and with some baroque elements, to diversify a clean, neo-classical ballet style.

John Shirley-Quirk's fiery High Priest, and Jonathan Sumners's jolly superman Hercules, make their presence strongly felt. So did Robert Tear as Admetus until his throat infection obliged him to mime the third act while David Billman sang the music from the orchestra pit.

Hilary Finch

84 Charing Cross Road

Ambassadors

The sight of Helene Hanff on the set of the bookshop she made famous and blinking under the applause of the town she could never afford to visit made Thursday's opening into the end of a fairly tale.

Miss Hanff's 20-year correspondence with the manager and staff of the above address has been justly accepted as a love affair conducted with great charm and wit. But love has to feed on something, and it was patently obvious to Miss Hanff (who took the trouble to keep her letters for future use) that she was doing more than elaborating a set of antiquarian book orders into a pen pals' relationship with Marks & Co.

In her eyes, the firm stood for the English cultural inheritance for which there was small outlet on the Elvira Queen television series. Antiquarian authors were Sam and Geoffrey to her. And her correspondence with the stuffy, correct manager, Frank Doel, blossomed into an exchange between a culturally deprived superpower and a culturally saturated Britain in the days of postwar austerity. There is no hint in the letters that Mr Doel or his colleagues ever

read a book; but they certainly perked up over her food parcels.

The play that James Roose-Evans has extracted and directed from the letters takes its form from a complete trust in the material. Mr Roose-Evans wholly proves his faith in the book as a theatrical text. The Hanff letters are funny to read, but as delivered by Rosemary Leach the lines really sing through the house. So does her study assault on the reserved Mr Doel (David Swift), first signing himself off "F.P.D." before relaxing into "Frank", and, in one recklessly abandoned moment (which cannot trace in the book's "Frankie").

The production unobtrusively builds up the relationship inside the shop, with Barbara Ward and Charmian May furiously undercutting Frank's exclusive rights to the Hanff account, and indignantly correcting him should he happen to omit the firm's name. One by one they drop out, and the production, presenting what is only implied in the book, shows his growing isolation in the shop before his abrupt death, leaving even better than the book's a vanished London, which many people, I think, will revisit with gratitude.

Irving Wardle

Itzhak Perlman appears on HMV as well as the Royal Variety Show



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Brian Friel's translations translations translations translations

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Hilary Finch Dancing Mozart Northern Sinfonia Queen Elizabeth Hall

Whether coincidental or not, two all-Mozart concerts on the South Bank this weekend came as a reminder that next Saturday is the one hundred and nineteenth anniversary of Mozart's death. On Friday night the Northern Sinfonia even recalled the financial

Joan Chissell

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS - Dealings Began, Nov 23. Dealings End, Dec 4. \$ Contango Day, Dec 7. Settlement Day, Dec 1

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

Wealth tax—a talking point again, page 17

Business News

THE TIMES Monday November 30 1981

New York bids for Eurodollar business, page 17

Mobil calls US Steel's Marathon bid 'illegal'

From Bailey Morris Washington, Nov 29

A decision in the first of two crucial court tests to the proposed takeover of Marathon Oil is likely this week as Mobil tries to convince a Federal judge to oust its US Steel rival from the bidding.

Mobil has accused US Steel of an illegal "sweetheart deal" with Marathon board members at the expense of the shareholders.

This is the crux of its case against US Steel, which got under way last week in Columbus, Ohio.

The outcome of the suit and another filed by Marathon in Cleveland, Ohio, challenging the Mobil takeover on anti-trust grounds, will be turning points in the battle.

Mobil is challenging two features of a US Steel offer. It objects to an option giving US Steel the right to buy 10 million shares of new Marathon stock for \$90 a share and to another allowing it to buy Marathon's most valuable domestic oil property if the company is in fact taken over by a third party.

Mobil has argued that such options are illegal as they are designed to protect the interest of Marathon's board rather than to promote the interests of shareholders.

The more critical of the two options is the one allowing US Steel to purchase Marathon's interest in the Yates oilfield in Texas, should a third party take over. This interest is worth an estimated \$6,000m but the option allows US Steel to buy it for only \$2,800m. Mobil has said it will withdraw or modify its newly-increased offer for Marathon if this option is not withdrawn.

Mobil is the high bidder, having revised its original offer for 51 per cent of the stock to \$126 a share from \$85. US Steel has offered \$125. In either case, the merger would rank as the second largest takeover in American history.

If the options are not invalidated Mobil reserves the right to withdraw its new offer or else to again to buy as little as one-third of Marathon's outstanding shares.

In challenging the other options granting US Steel the right to buy 10 million additional shares, Mobil contends this gives an unfair bidding and price advantage.

US Steel and Marathon directors said, however, that Mobil's original offer was grossly inadequate.

The Columbus court decision could be made this week, but the Cleveland case is not as far along. The Federal Trade Commission is also studying the anti-trust implications.

Meanwhile, as attorneys argued in court, US Steel tried to allay criticism of its bid.

Mr David Roderick, US Steel president, issued a statement saying the Marathon acquisition would in no way force his company to abandon its steel modernization plans or divert resources from other key segments of its steel business.

He also disclosed that the company has increased its cash position by arranging additional credit of \$5,000m under a new agreement with 33 domestic and foreign banks to make the acquisition and modernization plans possible.

CBI predicts no more than 1pc recovery

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

Britain's economy will pick up only slowly next year with output recovering by no more than 1 per cent, according to the latest economic forecast from the Confederation of British Industry.

Only on the export front does the CBI forecast improved productivity and international competitiveness.

This is a trend the CBI expects to continue in 1982, albeit to a less marked extent. Even so, it expects some recovery in non-oil exports next year, particularly if there is faster growth in world trade than in 1981.

At home, the CBI sees very little to look forward to other than an end to deflating some of the middle of next year. Even here, the CBI shows marked caution.

While pointing out that deflating in the year to mid-1981 was equivalent to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, the CBI is not looking for a large restructuring surge to get the economy moving again.

It suggests that any net stockbuilding in the second half of next year is likely to be very small. In addition, it sees any restructuring leading to have its most notable impact in boosting imports.

For the rest, the CBI's story is one of an economy finding it difficult to move out of recession. Personal spending power is viewed as likely to remain under pressure this winter. The report says that recent regional soundings suggest that retail sales volume may now be starting to slip.

The report is rather less gloomy on private sector capital investment prospects. After the further fall in 1981, the CBI expects overall investment to stop falling in 1982. This, however, includes a further fall of about 5 per cent in capital investment in manufacturing industry, offset by rises in investment in the North Sea and other sectors of the economy.

In spite of the fact the economy is passing through the worst of the recession, the CBI sees employment in manufacturing industry continuing to fall until mid-way through next year. As a result, it sees unemployment rising further.

After allowing for those taken off the register by special government measures, however, it sees unemployment stabilizing in the second half of next year at around 2.5m.

While the report offers some encouragement to the Government on the export front, it also sees a further rise in oil exports keeping the current account of the balance of payments in small surplus. It has few other messages of cheer.

Even in terms of the improved position on relative labour costs, the CBI feels that good recovery over the past couple of years may bring an end to the recent improvement.

The forecast envisages the domestic inflation rate hovering around 11 per cent until next spring.

largely reflects the slowdown in the growth in building society deposits.

"It would be unfortunate if interpretation of the monetary situation did not make full allowance for this long overdue competition in the savings and mortgage market."

In the immediate future, however, the survey raises a note of caution. It points to the sizable cash drain from the market as the effects of this year's Civil Service dispute are unwound.

This, it warns, is likely to lead—at the least—to periodic upward pressures on rates at the very short end of the market.

Other economic officials have predicted that the jobless rate will reach 9 per cent.

Mr Reagan acknowledged that there would be large Federal deficits for several years but disputed projections that the spending gap for 1981-82 would be as high as \$100,000m. The Government would re-examine laws which link welfare spending to increases in inflation, he said.

He hoped that Congress and the administration could work out a compromise on public spending before the December 15 deadline, so that the one-day stoppage in government caused by last week's deadlock would not be repeated.

UK motorcycles' future bright

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's motorcycle industry is on the brink of its healthiest period for years, according to a report published today.

New manufacturing developments such as Lord Hesketh's "superbikes" are rekindling the entrepreneurial vitality which was once an integral part of British motorcycle production, the study by Keynote Publications says.

No British company can attack the home market because of Japanese domination but the report applauds attempts by Lord Hesketh and Wadon Engineering, of Croydon, which has also introduced a new motorcycle.

Hesketh aims to produce 2,000 of the 1,000cc V-twin cycles a year. Wadon expects to be making 5,000 of its 125 to 500cc range each year by the end of 1982. The report says that if these targets are achieved—and it considers Wadon's goals to be optimistic—they could boost British motorcycle production by at least a third within two years.

Interest in both new products is already at an intense pitch, although the most severe problems to be faced are likely to be found in the retail distribution of their products", the report says.

Even if they can persuade often sceptical United Kingdom dealers that a market for British cycles is lurking not far below the surface, they will find it difficult to promise delivery times, supplies of tools and spare parts, and back-up service strategies.

While Britain remains firmly entrenched in recession, it is more than likely that the public will continue to search for a means of transport as an alternative to cars and public services. Motorcycles, Keynote Publications, 23 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA, £25.

There are those who fear that what seemed at first no more than a temporary liquidity setback may soon develop into a more serious crisis.

Romania's difficulties have arisen partly as a result of the Polish crisis, which has caused international banks to cut back on lending to the Eastern block, and reduce that short-term exposure to Romania.

This has had serious consequences for Romania with its unsatisfactory hard currency debt of about \$10,000m (£5,128m) of which \$5,700m is owed to Western banks.

The union is worried about what it believes is a move by the banks to increase small banking units in department stores or other commercial enterprises, which would have an effect on opening hours and the introduction of new technology.

Mr Mills said the union was represented in each of the major foreign banks in Britain and with the Americans taking a greater share of the lending market, it had decided to try and recruit among them.

Meanwhile, the union has drawn up guidelines for members over approaching pay negotiations.

The union's claim for clerical members in the five main banks—regarded as a benchmark for most of the banking industry—will be submitted in January. It is likely to seek a new minimum weekly rate of £80.

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, Nov 29

The Soviet block's total net debt to western countries is likely to exceed \$80,000m (£41,000m) by the end of the year, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It increased from \$64,000m in 1979 to \$73,000m in 1980.

While the western countries' current account surplus with eastern Europe rose from \$6,400m in 1979 to about \$7,900m in 1980, their deficit with the Soviet Union reached \$5,500m in 1980, compared with \$5,000m in 1979.

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, Nov 29

The 1979-80 crop, which disappointed overseas buyers hoping for a return to the quality of tobacco produced before the unilateral declaration of independence in 1970 and sanctions, earned £249m compared with about £214m brought in by gold.

Western Europe was the largest market for the tobacco with the Middle East taking second share, Mr Barnard said.

Mr Bert Barnard, chief executive of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association, said that last season's crop would bring in about £252m (£160m) in foreign exchange.

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MANAGEMENT

How a Highland radio station is preparing to go on the air

Frugality and the communications business go hand in hand in the Highlands, as they have always done. This was the case in the mid-nineteenth century when the *Inverness Courier* took exception to its rival, the *Journal*, claiming it had double the circulation of the opposition in the parish of Moy and Dalrossie.

In the next issue, the *Courier* editor, Dr Robert Carruthers, observed: "We have made enquiries as to the respective circulations of the *Courier* and the *Journal* in the said parish and we are informed by the postmaster that the circulation of the *Journal* in the parish is two copies per week, that of the *Courier* one."

Unlike the *Journal*, the *Courier* has survived to this day, only to face a new rival for its diet of "small ads" — Moray Firth Radio, which is due to go on the air next February after a gestation marked by acrimony, controversy, and financial crises.

It may be that those traumas are in the past, and there are certainly those locally in the Moray Firth area and within the Independent Broadcasting Authority, who hope so. But whatever the prospects for Moray Firth's future, three extraordinary facts dog its present.

● The station which will eventually go on the air will be markedly different in its programming philosophy from the one which won the

franchise from the IBA at the beginning of 1980. ● It will attempt to prove viable with the smallest potential audience, 200,000, of any independent local radio station in the country at a time when there are already rumblings about poor financial results from other, larger stations.

● The fact that it has come into existence at all, after a disastrous attempt to raise private funds through a prospectus, rests solely upon the company receiving a large part of its start-up capital in the form of a highly advantageous loan from public funds. The Highlands and Islands Development Board is making the station a £150,000 loan which will not require any repayments for the first two years and will not accrue interest during that period. The board has also awarded the station a £30,000 grant.

The story of Moray's growth, from the idea of a radio station in Inverness to an organization poised to broadcast within a few weeks, is closely linked to the way in which the IBA decides who is allowed to take the franchise for commercial radio stations.

When the authority decided it wanted to license a station covering both Inverness and Aberdeen, it advertised for applicants and found itself faced by healthy competition from three different groups for the whole of the area. There were indications that the franchise was viable. Its



Thomas Prag (left) Moray Firth Radio's chief executive and Rod Webster head of sales, at the building site of the station. The map (right) shows the station's transmission area.

total population was over the half million mark and included the wealthy oil-related region around Aberdeen. But one group, Moray Firth Community Radio Association, put in an alternative bid, for a station based at Inverness, but serving as far as Banff in the east and north towards Wick. Much of the philosophy came from another community radio group which later won the franchise for Cardiff.

The programming philosophy revolved more around the idea of a commercial radio station based on talk programmes, than the more usual pop record output.

A public meeting organized in Inverness by the IBA proved that the area felt no ties with Aberdeen. At the same time, the group put forward financial projections which seemed to prove that the original plan for one station could be split in two and still leave both halves viable.

It was a philosophy which proved attractive to the IBA, and there was considerable rejoicing in Inverness when the town heard the authority had granted the franchise. The optimism was relatively short-lived.

The Moray Firth association decided to raise its

start-up capital through the issue of a prospectus of 249,000 shares of £1. According to those involved in the bid, there were promises beforehand of five-sixths of the money from local private enterprises.

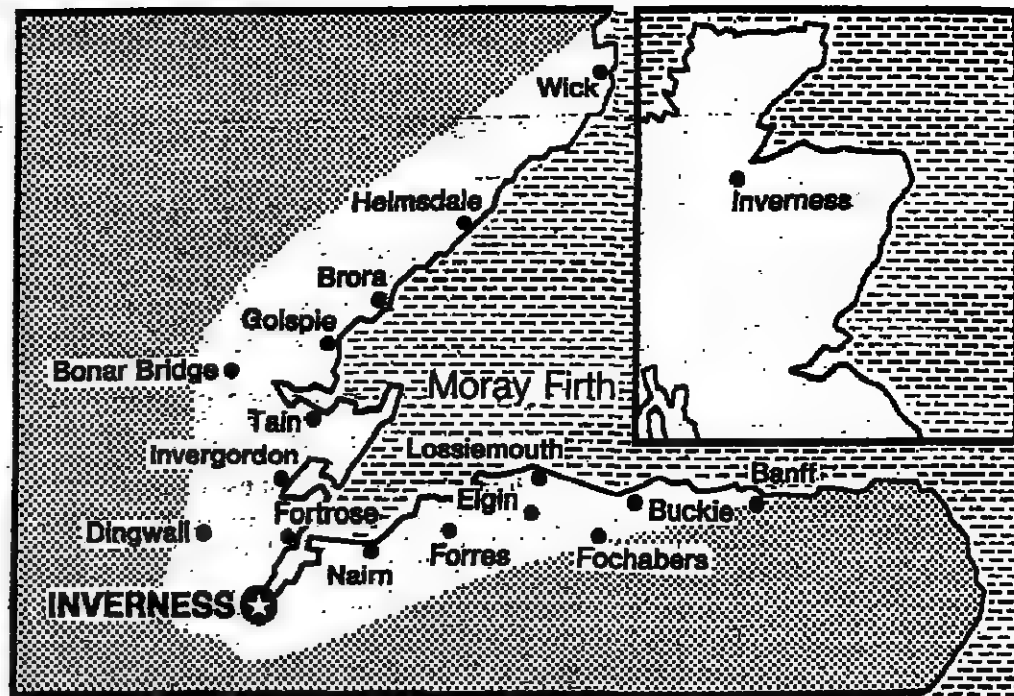
When the prospectus was issued it failed miserably. It has never been made public how much support the issue received, but the general belief is that the bid fell well short of its target.

Some of the accusations against why the prospectus flopped would exercise the careful attention of a libel lawyer.

From the association's side, there is criticism of the way in which the prospectus was worded. Within the local financial community, there was disquiet about some of the commercial projections. But it seems the bid was also doomed by its very nature; the Highlands are simply not used to seeing money raised in this way, and certainly not for new-fangled inventions like community radio.

When it became clear the prospectus was doomed, the future of Moray Firth was called into question. It was the only bidder for the franchise, and there was no other group on the sidelines willing to step into the breach with IBA approval.

"Standard Broadcasting is a dirty word in the community field but we weren't particularly concerned about who was involved. It was the level of influence we had which concerned us, and unlike others in the community field we had nothing



against Standard Broadcasting." The arrival of Standard gave a commercial respectability to the station which it desperately needed. It resulted in an agreement to finance the new company which gave Standard the largest single stake at £40,000 and other large stakes to the Daily Record Group, which is part of IPC, a local building firm, Grampian TV, a subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland, the Industrial and Commercial Corporation, and Lord Romney, the film producer and director of Capital Radio.

But at the same time, it radically altered the planned nature of its output, from a community station placing emphasis on talk programmes, which was what won it the franchise from the IBA, towards a more conventional output. From an original editorial staff estimated at 12, Moray Firth must make do with just three.

The association which first won the franchise tried to win 50 per cent of the board seats on the new company but failed. It will have three seats against 11 from commercial interests. Mr Peacock does not hide his disappointment over the way events have turned out. "We realize that we haven't got as far as we wanted to go."

"We are sorry that we have had to make concessions to the business interests involved, but we are sufficiently realistic to realize that what we were proposing was something fairly radical. The fact that we got as far as we did is something we should recognize."

Past arguments apart, how viable is the new Moray Firth? The Highlands and Islands Development Board insists that its loan and grant are based upon the firm belief that the station is a commercial proposition, despite the small size of its population spread.

Much of this belief, both on the part of the board and within Moray Firth, demands upon the existence of local advertising in much greater amounts than in other parts of the country.

Mr Rod Webster, the station's head of sales and someone who has been in on the bid from its earliest days, says the area has 19 local papers within it. The station will compete with them for corner shop advertising, offering 30 seconds in the afternoon for as little as £3. Certainly, with a total staff of 19 planned, Moray Firth will be running on low enough overheads to try to compete with the Highlands weeklies.

But Mr Thomas Prag, Moray Firth's ebullient chief executive, concedes: "A lot of people will be watching us to see what happens. I would never say that because what we are trying to work here it would work somewhere else. I would hesitate to set up a station like this anywhere near a large city in the South."

David Hewson

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Advances expected at three electrical sector giants

The electrical sector dominates a heavy week of trading statements this week with three leading groups unveiling half-year results.

Ferranti starts the week on Wednesday followed on Thursday by both Plessey and General Electric, while BP reports on its third quarter. In addition, Pilkington Brothers keeps alive the interest in the building sector with six-monthly news while Allied-Lyons reports tomorrow.

But it will be General Electric's performance that will hold most of the market's interest. Last year it reported an increase in profits from £155m to £190m helped by its cash mountain of some £660m, which has done much to colour analysts' predictions this time. Estimates range from £220m to £260m.

Interest received from this substantial sum last year totalled £67m and it is unlikely that the figure will have been reduced since then.

On the trading front, the group's consumer interests remain dull although there are some signs of a pickup in its lighting side. Industrial production shows little sign of improvement, but this should be offset to some extent by both the power engineering and Marconi Electronic divisions.

Here order books are healthy and look like remaining full for some time. Indeed, Marconi's defence work has been the star of the group in recent times and should show around 30 per cent growth in sales.

Analysts expect Plessey to have kept up its first-quarter pace. Then it achieved profits of £15m and estimates for the

This week

half year range from £49m to £54m against last year's £35m.

These estimates are apparently based on the recent change of course in the company's policy, the benefits of which are now showing through. Gone are the loss-making contracts for the construction of telephone exchanges, which in turn will have helped to reduce costs in other areas.

The interim dividend is unlikely to match the growth in profits with most experts looking for a 12 per cent increase to about 5.2p gross. Progress should be maintained in the second half where hopes are for £105m against last year's figure of £88m.

Ferranti's first-half performance is likely to prove less spectacular. Here the market is looking for a £1.5m increase in profits to round £8m with predictions for the full year reaching £22m against £18.1m last time.

On Thursday, British Petroleum is due to report its third-quarter figures. Analysts are going for net income of about £300m, against £209m this time last year, and £201m in the second quarter of the current 12 months.

Underlying earnings growth should produce some £180m, according to one set of calculations, with an additional £110m coming from stock profits, and £10m from foreign exchange gains. The £180m should represent an improvement in the earnings trend at BP.



Sir Arnold Weinstock of General Electric, where the cash mountain is expected to boost profits again.

Behind the increase may be a better performance from the Sohio offshoot in the United States, and a greater contribution from North Sea earnings, where an increase in price and gains from a higher pound should have an impact. On the chemicals side, there should be a reduction in losses on refining and marketing with Shell pointing in the right direction.

At the last annual meeting, the board of Pilkington

Brothers said that conditions in the UK were proving worse than expected as a result of the recession in the building industry.

Estimates have been sharply reduced as the City braces for a hefty provision of as much as £20m taken above the line, to cope with the situation.

Therefore, with the whole UK operation trading at a loss, a figure of between £30m and £35m is expected compared with £32m.

Despite this the dividend should be maintained at last year's level of 7.14p gross.

Looking to the second half, with the bulk of the provisions out of the way conditions should improve.

Despite a long dispute at the end of the year, Allied-Lyons should show a healthy increase in first-half profits tomorrow. Hopes are for profits of around £90m, excluding property sales, against £43.9m for last year. The brewery side remains

depressed with the industry showing a 3½ per cent fall in beer sales in the first half. The cost of keeping its pubs supplied with beer during the strike will have raised costs and the startup costs at Ansell's, following the return to work, will have done little to lighten the load.

TODAY — Interim: Brady Industries, Bremner, Chamberlain, Plessey, Greenbank Trust, Heston, Pentecost, Marshall (Halifax), Merrydown Wine, M K Electric, Sopomana, Sungei Best, W.G.I. Films: John Carr (Doncaster). **TOMORROW** — Interim: Allied-Lyons, Atkins Brothers, British Benzol, Charter Consolidated, David Dixon, Bargees Group, Highgate, Kunningham, The Mortgage Mercantile, Ocean Wilsons, Remorse, Rowntown Construction, Sangers Grp, Sungei Best, Tocalent, Finsale Cardiff Property, Hanson Trust, MEPC, Leads & District Dyers & Finishers.

WEDNESDAY — Interim: Balfour Beatty Gold Mining, Clydesdale (Transvaal) Collieries, Ferranti, Matthews Hall, London & Overseas, Phoenix Assurance, Pilkington Bros, Sheffield Refreshment Houses, Thorp Group, Trans-Natal Coal, Finance, Dundas & London Investment Trust, Grigoland Exploration and Finance, Irish Distillers, Keynes Investment, Kilmartin Gold Mining, West Rand Consolidated Mines. **THURSDAY** — Interim: BP (nine months), Castings, Cowiols, Debenhams, Dawson, International, Fine Art Developments, General Electric, Leigh Interests, Morgan Crucible (nine months), Murray Technology Investments, Pains and Whittier, Plessey, Roudledge & Kegan Paul, Scapa, Finsale, Joseph Joseph, Clouston, Grampian Whiskey, Royal Bank of Scotland, Trans-Oceanic Trust, United Wire.

FRIDAY — Interim: Belhaven Brewery, L. Ericson (nine months), Gordon & Gorch, Somers Clothes, UKO Intercontinental, Finsale, Frederick Cooper.

Business appointments

Smith Kline names managing director

Mr Martyn Greenacre has been named managing director of Smith Kline & French Laboratories. Mr A. Sanders has been made director of marketing. Dr P. Goddard, acting director of marketing, is leaving to become general manager of Smith Kline & French in The Netherlands. Mr J. H. Marcus takes over as head of product management and Mr Alan Chandler, head of product promotion.

Mr D. Collier has become a director of Kier International. Mr W. F. E. Price has been made managing director of Batterley Bathrooms. Mr A. A. Parkes, Mr A. E. Jones, and Mr J. H. Marcus have been made directors of the company, remains as chairman.

Mr L. H. S. Halling, chief executive of the industrial division of the APV Group and managing director of APV, has been named as managing director and chairman of Vent-Axia. Since his appointment earlier this year as chief executive of the APV Group Mr P. B. Hamilton has relinquished the position of chairman of the board of Vent-Axia but continues as a director of the company.

Mr Jack Eccles has been reappointed a member of the English Industrial Estates Corporation for another three years from next March 24.

Mr David Taylor and Dr John Worron-Griffiths have been

elected to the board of Ediro (Holdings).

Mr John F. Hampson and Mr Geoffrey J. Hyde have been elected executive directors of Hume Corporation.

Mr J. D. Oakley has been made managing director of Gardiner's Transformers.

Mr David Money-Chapple has become managing director, Mrs June R. Lumming leasing director and Mr Barry P. Kernon managing director of Money Combustion Management.

Mr James Lee and Mr John Murphy have joined the board of Madame Tussaud's as non-executive directors.

Mr David J. Blake, managing director of Melbourn Metals, has become president of the Steel Window Association.

Mr Dennis Wall has become managing director of Croudeau Construction. Previously construction director, he succeeds Mr David Abel, who has left the company. Mr J. B. Karcher, chairman of the Croudeau Group, is assuming overall responsibility for Melbourn Properties, of which Mr Abel was previously chairman.

Mr Philip Peacock has become a partner in Lovell, White & King. He is seconded to Abimber Law Firm, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with whom Lovell, White & King are in association.

Portents a little brighter in engineering

The British engineering industry has not had to seek its problems in the recession, but there are signs that a recovery in the sector, albeit slight, is about to be staged.

Rowe & Pitman say some advance in pretax profits for Vickers is in prospect for 1981 and 1982. They believe the results will show a gradual improvement as the benefits of rationalization and investment are supplemented by the improving economic climate.

By 1984, contributions to profits will come from some important defence contracts. Although the group's balance sheet shows a steady climb in the level of gearing, this could change dramatically if the Vickers' management decides to dispose of any of its ongoing business or other assets.

The group has a portfolio of investment properties with a book value of £30m, and the brokers recommend the shares as a buy or a hold for recovery.

In the normally buoyant pharmaceutical sector, Shephards and Chase say they regard Beecham Group's shares as an attractive long-term investment. They say there has been a substantial rerating of shares over the last year and expect out-performance to be modest in the short to medium term.

In the second half of this year, the company's two operating areas, pharmaceuticals and consumer products, will continue to grow significantly, with the consumer products business probably remaining the slightly faster growing.

Next year, the brokers say, consumer products are expected to generate most of the growth with US activities a major factor. They conclude that Beecham and the whole of the pharmaceutical sector have returned to favour over the last year and have outperformed the market substantially.

Brokers' views

In the wider economy, Phillips and Drew recommend a high-edged investment strategy of switching out of short-dated stocks into long-term, with a view to reversing the switch early in the New Year.

They say the indications are that the Government's interest rate policy is likely to result in a substantial strengthening in sterling in the weeks ahead.

By the first quarter of 1982, the Government will either be sufficiently close to achieving its money stock target to allow consideration of an easier interest rate policy or it will have become clear that the target for the year is going to be missed.

In this latter case, the policy of holding money rates high will serve no good purpose, and interest rates will be allowed to fall.

On the US economy, Michael Hughes of de Zoete & Bevan says that the Fed's response to evidence of a collapse in demand was to confirm a lower trading range for the Federal Funds Rate of 12-17 per cent and to inject new reserves into the banking system.

But, he says, we may now have reached the point where the Fed is unable to relax its policy stance any further without changing its operating rules.

President Reagan's economic alternatives are, as he sees it, either to force the Fed to relax its monetary targets and operating rules, or to ride out the storm hoping that recovery will come from next July's cuts in taxation and the expected fall in the rate of inflation.

Drew Johnston

Hessische Landesbank London Branch Change of Address

Effective November 30th the London branch of Hessische Landesbank, Frankfurt, is operating from new premises.

Hessische Landesbank London Branch
8 Moorgate
London EC2R 6DD
Telephone: 01-7264554
Telex: 887511 HELABA G
Cable Address: HELABA LONDON EC 2

Ronald A. Copeman
General Manager
Hans E. Reiche
Deputy General Manager

Helaba Frankfurt
Hessische Landesbank - Girozentrale

S&C
THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED

Floating Rate
Unsecured Capital Notes 1986

For the six months from 1st December 1981 to 31st May 1982 the above mentioned Notes will carry an interest rate of 15½% per annum.

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Frank Lipsius

As sterling starts to climb again

With the pound trading above \$1.96 in New York on Friday evening and closing at DM4.33 1/2 in London earlier in the day, we must now be near the point where something will have to give. There is, of course, no official exchange rate target, and it may well be that the present level of sterling remains just about within the tolerances of any unofficial target band. But unless there has been a fresh evolutionary twist in government thinking, we must be re-entering a zone of potential discomfort.

Certainly, that is the conclusion to which one is led by the latest CBI survey. This makes it clear that UK exporters have indeed been seeing a worthwhile increase in orders from North America on the back of the lower sterling/dollar exchange rate. But it is hard to believe that those exporters are now going to welcome a quick reversion to a \$2 pound.

Much more disturbing, perhaps, is what the CBI has to say about exporting to Europe. In this case, the tale has changed little. It remains one of weak demand and a lack of U.K. competitiveness. (Little wonder incidentally, that the government is in no hurry to become a full EMS member at this stage).

What we do not yet know on the other hand is whether action to put the lid on further sterling appreciation by constantly snipping away at U.K. interest rates would be consistent with domestic monetary objectives. As I explained last week, this problem of keeping exchange rate and domestic monetary policy in tandem is going to be one of the government's main problems over the coming months.

So with the upward pressure on sterling now seeming to develop quite strongly, it is vitally important that the November money supply figures, due out on Tuesday week, represent at least a step in the right direction.

At the moment, though, the authorities have made it abundantly clear that they see any decline in interest rates this winter as being relatively slow and orderly, they also appear to have no objection to an immediate half point cut in the banks' base rates.

Whether they have made this view clear enough in their market dealings is obviously a matter of opinion. If the bank's small reductions in its bill dealing rates last week was intended to encourage the clearing banks, it is equally obvious that the latter did not regard the signal as strong enough.

That, however, may in part reflect the technical position in the market at present. Given its preference for dealing with day-to-day shortages of liquidity through the discount market, it is not always easy for the Bank to put the rest of the banking sector into balance. It may in fact be getting some additional liquidity to the banks in other ways (e.g. through foreign exchange operations), but it looks increasingly as if it will have to provide some rather larger direct help to the banks if it is to see the system through a difficult winter without risk of upset.

Property companies More frequent valuations

Since efficient capital markets rely on a full flow of information, all market-watchers will welcome the accounting standard on investment properties SSAP 19. The standard requires all property companies to revalue their land and buildings assets every five years by external valuation and to make an internal directors' estimate of value every year.

This will undoubtedly help the market to measure relative profitability in the property sector where, at the moment, some property companies hold assets which have not been revalued for near on twenty years. Analysts would, of course like to have even more information, but there is only so much that can be extracted by an accounting standard.

However, at least the important provision for some kind of annual revaluation can now be regarded as having been achieved since no reputable property company will be willing to risk the now formalized penalty of an audit qualification for failing to revalue. In practice these sanctions will not come into effect until the property companies complete accounting periods starting on or after July 1 1981. For many, which account to March 31, the standard will not apply

until they prepare their accounts to March 1982. Of course, some of the most progressive companies, such as Land Securities, have already come pretty near the standard's requirement by revaluing all their properties every two years.

Other companies have perhaps only revalued very occasionally, as the result of new rental structures or financing agreements, though this is understandable since the costs of full revaluation can be very high.

Passage of the standard means that for the first time there will be strict comparisons of performance rather than comparisons based on estimates. Everyone should welcome this achievement.

House of Fraser

Waiting on Mr Biffen

Will Sir Hugh Fraser get Harrods for Christmas? For Jim Santa Claus could come in the form of Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, who any time now will make up his mind whether Lorrho should be allowed to bid for the House of Fraser.

Appropriately, perhaps, Mr Biffen will be taking his decision in the middle of Fraser's most important trading period of the year. Certainly, half-time results from the group hardly strengthened the case for continuing independence. Although profits rose from £1.02m to £1.29m, they were well below market expectations and gloomy trading talk did little for the share price.



Professor Roland Smith, chairman of House of Fraser

However, current indications are that trade has picked up and in early October Harrods, which accounts for a major portion of Fraser's total profits, was said to be enjoying a small boom.

Moreover, under Professor Roland Smith and Mr Ernest Sharp, Fraser has been working on its assets. Last January they were 305p a share. After Christmas they could well approach £4 — a figure which was banded around last January at the time Lorrho first decided to bid.

Free of board room harassment while the Monopolies Commission has been conducting its investigation, Fraser management reckons they have been able to spend much more time running the business. And its dogged support from institutional investors could well make it a tough nut for Lorrho to crack, and one that will certainly not yield to Lorrho's original offer of 150p a share.

If Mr Biffen does decide that Lorrho's bid is not against the public interest, then a wider battle will commence with former Lorrho merchant bankers S. G. Warburg and stockbrokers Cazenove fighting to keep Fraser independent. However, the shares at 181p are near the year's peak and one possibility, perhaps, would be a bidder who would take Lorrho's stake and then launch its own offer.

Lorrho has already pledged to put Sir Hugh Fraser back at the top of Fraser if it is successful. Cynics suggest that might not be the best strategy to win support from institutional holders.

New York banks bid for a slice of Eurodollar business

New York On Thursday, New York will become an international banking centre, competing directly with European and other foreign banks for Eurodollar business. The change is causing considerable excitement on Wall Street.

It is quite an event, says Mr Robert Jackson, vice-president of the Chemical Bank. "We'll be able to bring back to the United States a lot of foreign business that went offshore."

The new provisions, which were approved by the United States Federal Reserve Board and supported by New York State banking regulations, are designed to put New York on a more equal footing with other Eurobanking centres, the largest of which is London.

Under the new regulations, so-called International Banking Facilities (IBFs) will be able to accept deposits and extend credit to foreign residents or other IBFs.

Funds will be exempt from the usual reserve requirements and from interest rate limitations. But the new regulations are not meant to allow American companies and individuals to circumvent domestic banking regulations. The new facilities will be restricted to customers' operations outside the United States.

New York banks have lobbied heavily for the IBFs to simplify international operations and allow American banks the same latitude that their foreign competitors enjoy in their Eurodollar transactions. Essentially, Eurodollars are American currency not controlled by the Federal Reserve in the United States.

Eurodollars are used to pay 67 per cent of the world's international transactions. At present, the pool of Eurodollars stands at more than \$1,340,000m equivalent

to the whole of the United States government debt. The pool has nearly tripled over the last five years and continues to grow at a prodigious rate because of high American interest rates and balance of payments deficits.

European banks have dealt with dollar accounts since the Soviet Narodny Bank in Paris started making dollar loans and accepting repayment in dollars after the war.

In practical terms, off-shore banking privileges mean that banks will be free of the regulations that force American banks to leave a certain percentage of their assets on deposit with the Federal Reserve.

A complicated formula is used to calculate the exact amount the Fed requires, but it is as much as 14 per cent of some deposits, forcing banks to hold significant amounts in a non-interest-bearing form.

Also, IBFs are free of interest rate ceilings which apply to domestic banking; and income from such interest is free of state and local taxes.

To establish their off-shore facilities, banks have merely had to notify the Federal Reserve of their intention. The IBF can be housed in the bank's premises, and rather than a separate branch of the bank, it is merely a separate set of accounting ledgers.

About 140 banks have already notified the regional Federal Reserve Boards of their intention to open an IBF. While federal regulations apply throughout the United States, 99 other banks are under the jurisdiction of the New York Fed. Three-quarters of them are foreign banks, ranging from the major British banks to the Thai Farmers Bank.

British banks intending to open IBFs on Thursday include Barclays Bank International, Grindlays Bank, J

Henry Schroeder Banking Trust Company, National Westminster Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and Lloyds Bank International.

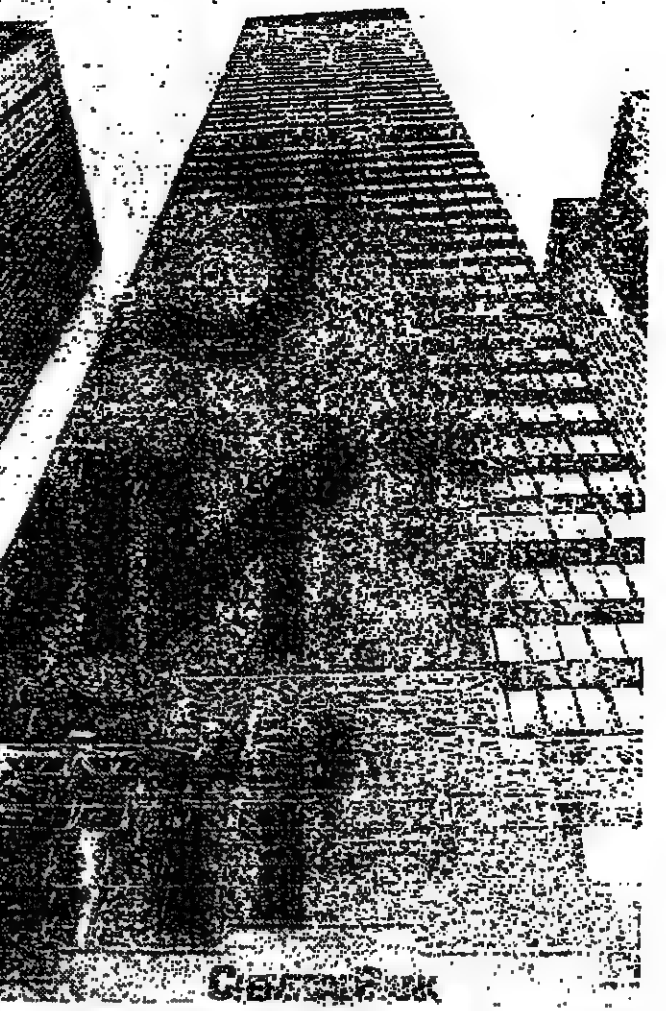
Other regions must make sure that state banking laws come into line with federal regulations before their IBFs are operable. Eight states have already taken steps to do so. Rather than be deprived of the advantages of the IBFs, American banks have long held off shore banking facilities, including branches in London, the Bahamas, Nassau and Bahrain. It was this successful circumvention of United States regulations that forced the Fed to extend the facilities to the United States itself.

As a result, money at least technically handled abroad may be repatriated, but no dramatic change in day-to-day operations will be perceptible. On the other hand, Federal Reserve economists predict that the convenience of the new centres in New York may draw as much as \$125,000m over the next few months.

London controls about 32 per cent of Eurodollar transactions, a figure that by 1990 may be reduced to 20 per cent according to Mr David Ashley at Grindlays Bank in London. New York's share is expected to rise to 18 per cent in the decade and the Bahamas and Cayman Islands share over the same period will fall from 11 per cent last year to 2 per cent.

"We do not see any significant near-term impact on our London operation," says Mr Douglas Ebert, senior vice-president and deputy general manager of Manufacturers Trust, the third largest bank in New York.

The bank will be assigning only 10 people to its new IBF, which will be housed in the bank's international banking centre on Wall



Chemical Bank headquarters New York: "We'll be able to bring back a lot of foreign business that went offshore."

Street. It will probably open IBFs in Miami and Los Angeles when the bank feels comfortable with the new regulations.

Over the long term however, he foresees the convenience of the IBF drawing money, which might otherwise have been placed abroad.

Similarly, the Chase Manhattan Bank, while opening IBFs in Los Angeles, Houston and Miami as well as New York, is hiring only a few extra clerks to help with the new operation. As with most banks, the IBFs will be handled by the same staff who are already dealing with international transactions.

Transactions can be made in currencies other than dollars, and foreign residents may hold accounts in IBFs, but an individual IBF time

deposit must be at least \$100,000.

Since American corporations can use the IBFs for their foreign operations there are certain grey areas which require further elaboration, including the question of lending money to off shore American subsidiaries for the purpose of exporting American goods and determining how foreign securities bought on the open market can be assured of falling into the proper category of "used for a foreign purpose."

Despite the slow start and initial uncertainties, the IBFs should have an increasing impact on international banking as they are integrated into American banking practice. Mr Lawrence Unlick, vice president of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company describes them as "the best of all worlds."

Wealth tax a talking point again

The wealth tax merry-go-round has been given another whirl by the Crosby by-election.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the victor, is in favour of wealth taxation and a remarkably high percentage of the SDP membership (63 per cent, according to a London Week-end Television poll) agrees with her. If wealth tax is adopted by the SDP/Alliance, two out of three British political parties will be urging a wealth tax in their programmes at the next general election.

There is no doubt Labour will make — by way of wealth tax — another attempt to achieve the elusive fundamental shift of wealth and power that was Mr Denis Healey's declared objective in 1974.

In France, a newly devised version of this tax has become law, and its structure and results will serve as precedents for us to follow.

The notion of taxing wealth is regarded with relief by the left for whom the very word "wealth" carries with it the connotation of privilege and inequality.

This psychological advantage is supported by the convenient economic theory that wealth confers security and opportunity over and over again, and that unequal distribution of wealth should be countered by taxing it separately, in addition to taxes on income, profits, and gains and losses.

The French have been rehearsing these arguments,



Professor James Meade (left) and Mr Dick Taverne: for and against a wealth tax. Now they are looking at the subject on an SDP study group.

and the outcome is that from January 1 1982, each French family will be liable to *l'impôt sur la fortune* annually, at progressive rates of 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent — despite bitter criticism of the tax as confiscatory and unconstitutional, ineffective, destructive to the economy, marriage, wine production and civilization in general.

To get his tax on to the statute book, budget minister M Laurent Fabius has been obliged to make concessions. In particular, works of art have been exempted, although subject to an inheritance tax. But the scope of the tax remains wide, catching all property owned by French residents wherever situated, plus foreign-owned property in France.

How will it work? Each January 1, commencing 1982, an individual French family will add up the net value of its goods, rights and property including the domestic home — to see if the value exceeds 3m francs (about £200,000). If it does, the head of the household files a return. There is a further exemption of 2m francs (about £200,000) for business and professional property corresponding to similar reliefs in Britain's capital transfer tax system, and designed to preserve small businesses from sale or break up, when cash to pay tax is required.

In France, wealth is unequally distributed: 10 per cent of the population owns 57 per cent of it; 11 per cent no wealth; and a further 32 per cent owns a negligible amount.

It is not easy to see how the distribution will be changed by the new tax,



which at first glance, appears not at all burdensome. About 200,000 taxpayers are estimated to be liable and the yield is forecast about £500 million.

On the other hand, income tax rates are being raised for those in top brackets; wealth tax is not indexed; and once tax is exacted, rates can be increased and thresholds lowered.

There is an existing effective capital gains tax in France, but historically, the French have been reluctant, grudging and evasive taxpayers. At last, they are being dragged into the net.

The SDP does not yet have a firm policy commitment to a wealth tax but has set up a study group under Mr Dick Taverne QC, a former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, to ponder the problems of taxation, poverty and social security.

Mr Taverne, as it happens, has unhesitatingly stated his disapproval of a wealth tax, particularly one introduced for the sake of slogans; one

without any real yield or social or economic effect, designed merely as a sop to the extreme left, paying lip-service to the concept of transferring from rich to poor.

Administratively, wealth tax must be burdensome, if only because the measurement of wealth is a more uncertain process than that of income. Income usually comes in cash, whereas capital is usually held in assets, the valuation of which can be difficult. It is impossible to be sure what a property is worth until it is sold, and even then the price may be a special one.

Nowadays, the costs of government are more recognized than previously, and a tax which costs some £50m to yield £500m, does not, in Mr Taverne's view, make sense.

Also, it is common ground that non-income yielding property such as works of art, standing timber, and family homes should in fairness be exempt, and the effect of exemption will be to create a bias in favour of these things, so forcing up prices.

It is predicted this will happen in France. Widespread evasion and legal avoidance are also predicted. On the other hand, there is the substantive justification propounded by Professor James Meade and other fiscal economists, to the effect that wealth tax would permit reduction in more damaging taxes, such as income taxes.

Since Professor Meade is to be a member of Mr Dick Taverne's study group, it is unlikely that Mr Taverne will have things all his own way.

Oliver Stanley

Business Diary profile: Yvon Gattaz and France's CBI

A new man for a new situation. That is how it might sum up the choice of Yvon Gattaz, 56, as next president of France's equivalent of the CBI — The Conseil National Du Patronat Français (CNPF).

Whereas incumbent president Francois Ceyrac, 69, has always been an official without industrial experience, Gattaz is the owner of a highly successful electronics components company he founded 29 years ago. While Ceyrac tended to represent the interests of the giant French industrial groups and multinationals, Gattaz has set himself up as champion of the small company.

When relations between industry and the socialist government could hardly be worse, the less ideological tone of this lively entrepreneur might improve the climate — especially as he does not come from the big business establishment of which the socialists are so suspicious.

French companies were nationalized and French industry found itself under attack from the Government. The contest finale was between two Yvons: Yvon Chotard, aged 60 and head of a Paris publishing house, who had taken over industrial relations responsibilities from Ceyrac when he (Ceyrac) was elected president in 1972. A man who knows the system inside out and has shown considerable negotiating skills, he is regarded as conservative and is identified with the Ceyrac regime.

Up against him was Yvon Gattaz. Who sees himself as both a man of action and reflection. Not only has he built his firm Radial into one of the most profitable French companies with its 800 employees and 180m francs (£15.4m) of sales, but he has also become quite a philosopher on business management. Just after the May 1968 student riots he brought out his first book *Les hommes en gris*, a defence of small firms. In 1973 he launched his own monthly magazine called *Les quatre vertes* and in 1975 he set up "Ethic", a group of about 1,500 progressive businessmen favourable to the concept of a medium-sized firm with between 50 and 2,000 employees.

Last year he brought out a second book *La fin des patrons* forecasting the end of the old French business establishment.

As one can imagine, it was not easy to choose between two candidates with such different experience and ideas. But when members of the 35-strong executive committee started suggesting Yvon might be preserved if Ceyrac was kept on, the two men signed a pact. Agreeing to support each other, they agreed that if Ceyrac won, Gattaz was to have been given responsibility for reforming the

patronat. If Gattaz did, Chotard was to stay as director for industrial relations questions. This deal probably enabled Gattaz to pip Chotard to the post. The formal election of the president will not occur until the general assembly meeting next month, but the nominated candidate is invariably adopted.

The new man has a lot going for him. He is highly articulate with a talent for the punchy phrase. He has plenty of ideas and is full of energy. He can be touchy when defending members' interests and favours unity among employers in face of the socialist government. But he is a man of dialogue and is down to earth and business-like in his approach.

The vocation of companies is economic and indirectly social, but not political, Gattaz says. "Companies must stick to the language of economics. It is that which makes them credible."

With most of the bigger French companies being nationalized, Gattaz could be placed in a very delicate position. If they stay, he could be accused of collaborating with the state; if they go, he loses a very large percentage of the membership fees.

The answer might be to concentrate on the smaller

companies which he has specialized in, but then he is likely to run up against the powerful Confederation for Small and Medium Companies (CGPME). Its president, Rene Bernasconi, has not concealed his dismay at the choice of Gattaz and has made it clear he does not want him moving in on his patch. On the other hand the Syndicat National de la Petite Moyenne Industrielle (SNPMI) of the CGPME is delighted at the Gattaz nomination and is already talking of moving closer towards the patronat.

The main reservation about the new leader is that he does not know his way around the patronat yet, having worked there for only five years. "He is a man of ideas, not somebody in the system," said one businessman.

There are also suggestions that he is too intellectual for the average small company owner. "Ethic is just an elite club. The sort of thing that is discussed there would not interest people running smaller companies."

What is certain is that he will need all the skills at his disposal if he is to maintain the unity of the French employers. Much will depend on those he picks to work with him when he takes over in January.

Michael Parrott



Small is beautiful: (left to right) Rene Bernasconi of the CGPME, President Mitterrand and the CNPF's Yvon Gattaz.

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- 6.5 million barrels of oil have been produced from the Buchan Field and Charterhall is receiving cash flow from its small working interest. Revenue from its Net Production Interest is expected to commence by the end of 1982.
- A dividend of 0.3p per share for the year ended 30th June, 1981 is to be paid on 7th December, 1981.
- Plans for the public flotation of the Australian Group are well advanced for the further development of Charterhall's interests in Australia.
- The North American interests are to be further expanded and an office has been established in Denver.
- Charterhall is now well placed to consider opportunities for further increasing its asset growth.

Copies of the 1981 Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Charterhall Limited, Sutherland House, Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5BA.

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A tenants' market in London's Holborn

The Holborn office market, which was once regarded as the most up-and-coming area in central London, has witnessed a slowdown as large amounts of space have become available, and tenants are negotiating from a position of strength.

The latest report on the Holborn area, by Weatherall Green & Smith, underlines the shift in dominance of the market. It says that over the coming year prospective occupiers can expect increased availability of a wide selection of properties and, for larger buildings particularly, they should be able to negotiate very competitive terms.

Despite the steady build-up in rents over the past few years, the agents have noticed a fall in interest in recent weeks, leaving what they describe as an uncomfortably high number of substantial new or refurbished buildings standing unlet.

The area which Weatherall Green & Smith describes as a wide open, it runs from Euston Road to the Victoria Embankment, encompassing the Strand, Tottenham Court Road and Charing Cross Road to the west and Farringdon Road to Blackfriars Bridge to the east.

Apart from the many office blocks available there are many still being built which will be ready for occupation over the next two or three years. These include schemes such as the Midland Bank Trust's 60,000 sq ft Griffin House next to Charing Cross station and the 80,000 sq ft Cavell House redevelopment.

One of the largest projects in the area is Land Securities' proposed rebuilding behind the facade of Grand Buildings in Northumberland Avenue. When the group has vacant possession of the site



The largest office building ready for occupation south of London has been unveiled by the Midland Bank Pension Trust. Located in Bromley, Kent, Griffin Building covers 129,250 sq ft in two five-storey towers. Sole agents Jones Lang Wootton are asking £10 a sq ft.

it plans to erect 194,000 sq ft of offices. Also, the site adjoining Charing Cross station has been snapped up by John McLean Associates, the Tarmac subsidiary.

Plans by News International, Associated Newspapers, and the Daily Telegraph to relocate their production facilities will contribute greatly to the changing face of the Fleet Street area.

Despite the increase in letting over the past year, which has seen rents in refurbished accommodation in Aldwych House rise from £10 a sq ft to £12.50 a sq ft, the agents say that Holborn is no landlord's haven. In some instances, it is the tenant who has been able to make a profit, rather than the freeholder.

The report says: "It is also

possible to acquire interests on competitive terms... we have been able to acquire accommodation during the year for clients at rents which are already looking historic."

In spite of stagnating rents, possible over supply, and the uncertain economic position, the agents say that yields for prime Holborn office space have stood up well at 5 per cent - only 0.5 per cent higher than for the City and the West End.

Institutional pressure, to invest in first-class property, together with good performance in the past, makes these returns acceptably low at a time when the reverse yield gap is as high as 11 per cent. The largest deal concluded by Weatherall Green & Smith during the year was the acquisition for £11m of 18

Breams Buildings which showed an initial net yield of 5.5 per cent.

The report also draws attention to the high cost of outgoings such as rates and energy costs which are becoming a critical factor in the office market.

At the same time there is the wide disparity in rates depending on which part of Holborn an office is located. The area is divided between the City of London, Westminster and Camden with rents in the latter authority's jurisdiction paying 150p to the £, considerably more than in some other boroughs.

Despite the economic gloom and the general shift of companies away from the capital, twice as much industrial space has been let in the past six months in East London and Essex, compared with the preceding half year.

Drivers Jonas, has just published a report which says that there has been a marked fall off in available industrial accommodation, reflecting both increased letting and a reduction in the amount of space planned or being built.

The survey includes seven London boroughs to the north and east of the City together with Bishop's Cleeve and Essex. The available space let to vacant accommodation rose from 21 per cent in the first half of the year to 30 per cent during the past six months.

Available space has risen by 36.5 per cent over the period, but the agents say that there has been a substantial leap in the number of units on the market.

Drivers Jonas estimates that there is now 5.75 million sq ft of space standing vacant within the area, of which about half is in east London.

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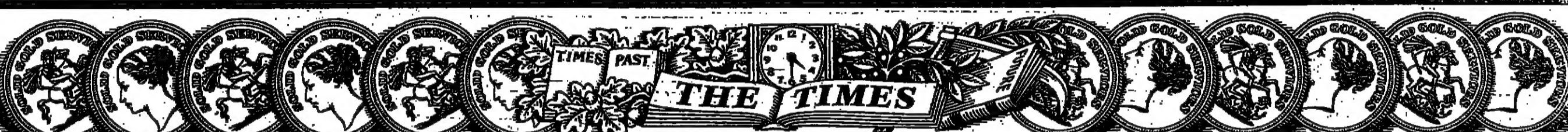
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TTI Birmingham. 13 Colindale Ave, B3 2BE. 021-236 3524.
TTI London. 1674 Tulse, 01-277 2322.
TTI Manchester. 130-132 Kingsway, W2B 6JU. 01-240 5361.
TTI Newcastle. 130-132 Kingsway, W2B 6JU. 01-240 5361.
TTI Newcastle. 130-132 Kingsway, W2B 6JU. 01-240 5361.

RECRUITMENT SERVICES

Amie Pallister Agency. For top secretarial staff. 01-588 9225.
David Grove Associates. Banking, Managerial/Client/Secretarial. 248 1858.
The Federation of Personnel Services. 01-458-8284 for list of approved agencies.
International Secretaries Ltd. 01-491 7108. Overseas bilingual & temporary staff.
Marrow Emp. Agcy. Ltd. Secretarial posts, temp. 01-638 1467.
O.W. Selection (near Harrods). Permanent and temporary staff. 01-589 0590.
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COLLECTORS

Anglia Gold & Silver Exchange (Northampton). Gold/Silver coins, medals, etc. 0504 31913.
B. A. Seaby Coins & Medals Ltd. All coins/medals bought & sold. 580 3677.
Harvey Michael Ross. Gold coin dealer. Cash list available. Dealing (0532) 468251.
H.M. Ross. Rarest House St. Pauls St. Leeds. 01-438 1391.
For item prices Tel: 0532 468254 (7 lines).
London Coin Company. Foreign coin dealer. Cash/medals. 01-930 7597.
Lobkowsky. Gold coins, etc. 01-637 7822.
Robson Lowe Stamp Auctioneers & Valuers. 50 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JZ. 839-4034.
World of Books. 30 Soho Square, London, W.1. Every day.

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York 69. 10 am/10 pm. Also Men, 69 York St. W1 723 7553.

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British Heart Foundation. 57 Gloucester Place W.1. Tel: 01-635 0185.
British Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. 210 Upper Richmond Rd, SW15. 789 7510.
Cancer Research Campaign. 2 Canon House, Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR.
Charity Army - Canterbury 1981/2. 01-520 1981/2.
Cheque. 210 Upper Richmond Rd, SW15. 789 7510.
Cruse for the Widowed & their Children. 120 Sheep Rd, Richmond, Surrey.
National Research Fund. PO Box 123, Lincoln Inn Fields, WC2A 3PX.
National Association for the Blind. 112 Victoria St. SW1. 01-637 0741.
National Deafness Research Fund. PO Box 123, Lincoln Inn Fields, WC2A 3PX.
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. 210 Upper Richmond Rd, SW15. 789 7510.
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Mathew Galleries (London). 24 Motcomb St. SW1. Paintings of Arabes.

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Elle Copp & Company. 210 Upper Richmond Rd, SW15. 789 7510.
Forest Bureau Property Management Services. Quality homes Essex. NE London. 01-502 1777.
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Ruck & Ruck (Letting Management & Sales). 13 Old Brompton Road, SW7. 01-581 1741.

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Cambridge International College. 17 Station Road, Cambridge CB2 3EJ. 0223 68245.
Paris Academy School of Fashion. 259 Oxford Street, London, W1. 01-629 5640.
St. George's College. 20 Apsley Road, NW3. 01-435 9831.
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SCHOOLS, LANGUAGE SCHOOLS & COURSES

Anglican School (Ariste). English/Tel. 145 Church Rd. SE19 653 7285.
Country Services. Devon Eng. Language Schools. 0626 890333.
Institut Francais (French Institute). All levels. 14 Cromwell Place, SW7 589 8211.
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MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES

Ashridge Management College. Barking, Essex. 0474 284 9491.
Barking College (Works) Ltd. For co-ops. Tel: 0203 67441.
The Institute of Marketing College. Sales and marketing courses. 0203 67441.
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Oxford Centre for Management Studies. Executive development. 0865 735422.
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